SELECTED LETTERS PERTAINING TO THE
HISTORY OF LOS GATOS
FROM THE
"LETTER BOOK OF JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES"
THREE VOLUMES 1850 - 1879

RARE BOOK **qc 091F6 - 3 VOLUMES -
STATE LIBRARY, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1942 FROM THE ORIGINAL CARBON COPIES OF THESE LETTERS IN THE POSSESSION OF CHARLES TOMKIN OF SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, NOW DECEASED.
THESE LETTERS WERE COPIED FROM THE THREE VOLUMES AT THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY IN 1975 IN THIS FORM TO ADD TO THE PRESENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF LOS GATOS AND TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN FURTHER RESEARCH OF OUR PAST SO THAT IT MAY BE PRESENTED IN AN ACCURATE MANNER DRAWING FROM ORIGINAL MATERIAL.

WILLIAM A. WULF
230 SAN MATEO AVENUE
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA, 95030

SANTA CLARA
JANUARY 25TH.1851

BARRON ESQ.
TEPIC, MEXICO

.....I WAS SO FOOLISH AS TO DISPOSE OF A PART OF MY INTEREST IN NEW ALMADEN, BUT MY DEAR SIR I HAVE BEEN THE TARGET AT WHICH ALL THE SCOUNDRELS WHOM I WOULD NOT DEEM TO NOTICE HAVE SHOT AT, THAT MOST SUBLIME OF ALL VILLIANS, ROBERT WALKINSHAW, IN CAPITAL. I AM TOO MUCH OF A SPANIARD, I AM TOO FAIR, TOO FRANK TO BE ABLE TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE HORDES OF VILLIANS WHO HAVE INUNDATED THIS COUNTRY. THE RESULTS HAS BEEN A GENERAL COMBINATION AGAINST ME WHICH HAS NOT CHANGED MY OPINIONS NOR ABATED MY DISGUST OF SUCH CANAILLE, BUT IT HAS CAUSED ME MUCH EXPENSE AND MENTAL INQUIETUDE.....

JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES

PRIVATE

CALIFORNIA

SANTA CLARA 29TH MARCH 1851

H.P. TOWNSAND ESQ.

SAN JOSE

DEAR SIR

I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR EXTREME FAVOUR OF THE 15TH INST. AND TO STATE IN ANSWER HERETO, THAT A RESIDENCE OF UPWARDS OF TWENTY YEARS IN THIS COUNTRY INPUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE, HAS AFFORDED ME A KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF MEXICO, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH RELATE TO THE PRINCIPAL RESOURCES OF CALIFORNIA.

AS YOUR REQUEST RELATES PRINCIPALLY TO THE ACQUISTION OF A KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEINS OF CINNABAR IN THE VICINITY, I SHALL ENDEAVOR TO GIVE YOU A CORRECT THOUGH BRIEF NOTICE OF THIS MINERAL, OR RATHER OF ITS EXISTENCE IN THIS COUNTRY.

THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF CINNABAR IN CALIFORNIA WAS MADE IN 1845; SINCE WHICH TIME I BECAME INTERESTED IN THE GREAT MINE OF NEW ALMADEN, THE POINT FIRST DISCOVERED, AND I HAVE EVER SINCE BEEN SOLELY ENGAGED IN ATTENDING TO THE OPERATIONS OF THAT MINE AS ONE OF THE OWNERS AND AS THE DIRECTOR. THIS MINE AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW IS SITUATED AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF A SPUR OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, RUNNING N.W. AS FAR AS THE MINE OF GUADALUPE, A DISTANCE OF ABOUT FOUR MILES. THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EXTENT OF THIS RANGE A MINUTE EXAMINATION WAS MADE IN 1846 BY MY ORDERS AND UNDER MY OWN PERSONAL INSPECTION, AND ALTHOUGH MANY TRACES OF CINNABAR WERE DISCOVERED, NO VEIN WAS STRUCK, UNTIL THAT CALLED GUADALUPE WAS OPENED IN 1848. I SAW THAT AT THE VERY COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS IN GUADALUPE, THAT THE ORES WERE QUITE AS ABUNDANT AS WERE THOSE OF NEW ALMADEN AT ITS BEGINNING, AND I BECAME AN OWNER OF ONE QUARTER OF GUADALUPE. THE GREAT EXCITEMENT PRODUCED BY THE DISCOVERY OF THE GOLD REGION, PARALIZED THE OPERATIONS IN THIS MINE, BY REASON OF THE HIGH RATE OF WAGES, AND THE DIFFICULTY OF PROCURING WORKMEN, WE EVEN LOST OUR MEN WHO WERE MEXICAN MINERS UNDER CONTRACT, FROM N.ALMADEN. SINCE TIME HOWEVER, SUFFICIENT WORK HAS BEEN DONE AT GUADALUPE TO PROVE THAT IT BIDE FAIR TO BE A MOST ADVANTAGEOUS SPECULATION. ITS LOCAL POSITION IS MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THAN THAT OF NEW ALMADEN, AS IT IS NEARER A MARKET.

1851, MARCH 29TH. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO H.P. TOWNSAND OF SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA.

THE ACQUISTION OF THE GUADALUPE IS STRICTLY IN CONFORMITY TO THE ORDENANRA DEL MINERIA, AND ITS TITLE IS FORTIFIED BY THE SALE OF THE ORGINAL GRANTEE OF THE LAND UPON WHICH IT IS SITUATED, TO THE PRESENT HOLDERS.

THESE TWO MINES ARE THE ONLY ONES KNOWN AND WORKED IN CALIFORNIA, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THAT OF GUADALUPE IS A CONTINUATION OF THE ONE OF N.ALMADEN AND I CONSIDER THAT IT MAY BE EQUALLY AS PRODUCTIVE. I ONLY REGRET HAVING DISPOSED OF MY INTEREST THEREIN.

THE YIELD OF NEW ALMADEN IS ABOUT 2500 LBS. OF MERCURY PER DAY AND WITH THE REDUCTION OF WAGES WHICH IS NOW TAKING PLACE THE EXPENSES WILL BE GREATLY LESSENED. I REMAIN DEAR SIR

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT

JAMES ALEX. FORBES

VIA ACAPULCO SANTA CLARA

MESSRS. BARRON, FORBES, & CO. 9TH. OCT.,1852
TEPIC, MEXICO

GENTLEMEN

THE ACCOMPANYING LETTER OF YESTERDAYS DATE, HAS FOR ITS OBJECT THE OFFER OF SALE OF QUICKSILVER TO YOU, AS THEREIN EXPLAINED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENABLING ME TO ENGAGE IN AN ENTERPRISE WHICH I BELIEVE WILL BE SUCESSFUL.

I HAVE THE CONTROL AS OWNER OF THE ONLY AVAILABLE COMPETENT WATER POWER FOR PROPELLING MACHINERY IN THIS VALLEY; AND IN VIEW OF THE PERMANENT USEFULNESS OF A GRIST MILL OF SUFFICIENT EFFICACY NOW AND HEREAFTER IN THIS VICINITY, I PURPOSE ERECTING ONE. FOR THIS OBJECT I WANT FUNDS WHICH ALTHOUGH I CAN OBTAIN THEM IN CALIFORNIA, THE HIGH RATES OF INTEREST 2% PER MONTH, DETER ME FROM ACCEPTING.

I AM OFFERED ALSO, THE MONEY I SHALL REQUIRE, BY THE AGENT OF A MONIED MAN IN THE ATLANTIC STATES, BUT IN THIS CASE, THE PROPOSTION DOES NOT MEET MY VIEWS, FOR, A SHARE IN THE ENTERPRISE IS SOLICITED WHICH I DO NOT WISH TO CONCEDE, AS I DESIRE TO BE ENTIRELY ALONE FOR THE OCCUPATION OF THIS PROPERTY, FOR THE FUTURE BENEFIT OF MY FAMILY.

IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THIS NEGOCIATION UPON A SURE AND SATISFACTORY FOOTING, I BEG TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSTIONS TO YOUR CONSIDERATION : 1ST. THE SALE OF THE QUICKSILVER TO YOU AS ALREADY STATED, AND A LOAN FROM YOU OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, UPON THE SECURITY OF MY BOND AND MORTGAGE ON MY SHARE IN THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN, INTEREST TO BE PAID SEMIANNUALLY LOAN FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS. 2ND. IF YOU DO NOT PURCHASE THE QUICKSILVER, I SOLICIT A LOAN OF TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS UPON THE SAME TERMS AS ABOVE EXCEPT THAT THE INTEREST BE PAYABLE ANNUALLY.

SHOULD EITHER OF THESE PROPOSITIONS CONFORM TO YOUR VIEWS PRAY INFORM ME AT YOUR EARIEST CONVENIENCE WHETHER IT BE PURCHASE AND THE LOAN FIRST MENTIONED, OR THE 2ND. AT WHAT RATE OF INTEREST YOU MAY WISH TO RECIEVE, AND IF IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR MY SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE I WILL ADVISE YOU ACCORDINGLY. BE PLEASED TO ANSWER THIS BY STEAMER VIA ACAPULCO.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN, YOUR OB. SERVANT, JAMES ALEX. FORBES

PRIVATE

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
9TH. OCT., 1852

FREDERICK PROBST ESQ.
NEW YORK

MY DEAR SIR - SINCE MY LAST DATE, I HAVE NOT HAD THE PLEASURE OF HEARING FROM YOU EXCEPT ONCE FROM YOUNG EVERETT, WHO TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE ENJOYING YOURSELF IN A FINE HOUSE, IN BROOKLYN, WHICH I CONGRATULATE YOU UPON AND PRESUME YOU YOURSELF DO, ALSO, AFTER THE EVENTFUL VICISSITUDES OF THE FEW PREVIOUS YEARS OF YOUR LIFE. I TRUST THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE IN PROSPERITY AND IN HEALTH MANY YEARS. CALIFORNIA IS STILL THE TURBULENT EFFERVESCE OF EXCITEMENT OF HETEROGENOUS ELEMENTS, BUT THE TIME IS PAST FOR MAKING MONEY RAPIDLY. EVEN IN OUR MINING OPERATIONS WE FOUND THAT INDIVIDUAL LABOUR AND CAPITAL BEGINS TO TAKE THE PLACE OF SECONDARY.

IN NEW ALMADEN WE ARE GOING ON STEADILY WITH A LIMITED EXTRACTION OF MERCURY, IN ORDER NOT TO OVERSTOCK THE MARKETS OF MEXICO, AND OTHER MINING COUNTRIES, BUT THE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MINE ARE NOW, I AM HAPPY TO SAY OF AN EXTENSIVE AND PERMANENT NATURE, THANKS TO THE HONORABLE AND JUST DECISION OF JUDGE HOFFMAN, WHO HAS STRUCK A DEATH BLOW TO THE COMPANY AGAINST OUR RIGHTS. IN FACT, THE TIME IS PAST FOR SUCH VILLAINOUS TRANSACTIONS TO SUCEED IN CALIFORNIA.

POPULATION IS AUGMENTING HERE, AND SOCIETY IS ASSUMING A LITTLE MORE OF MORAL SENTIMENT. THE LAND COMMISSIONERS GOING ON SLOWLY IN THEIR DECISIONS, AND THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THAT THE LAND TITLES OF CALIFORNIA WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AT LAST, BUT WITH THE LOSS OF AT LEAST ONE HALF OF THE LANDS TO THE PORPORTERS, BY THE MACHINATIONS OF THE SWARM OF GREEDY LAWYERS THAT INFEST ALL PARTS OF THIS COUNTRY.

THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF CALIFORNIA HAVE RECIEVED SOME IMPULSE, BY REASON OF THE GREAT RISE IN THE PRICE OF BREADSTUFFS CAUSED BY THE COMBINATION OF CAPITALISTS IN SAN FRANCISCO AND IN CHILE. THIS EVIL SO FAR AS REGARDS GRAIN WILL BE SOON REMOVED, FOR THE SOIL OF CALIFORNIA IS QUITE AS PRODUCTIVE AS THAT OF CHILE, AND AS SOON AS THE PRICE OF LABOUR SHALL PERMIT, ALL THE CEREAL GRAINS

WILL BE EXTENSIVELY CULTIVATED HERE. AS TO MILLS, CALIFORNIA DOES NOT AFFORD GREAT FACILITIES FOR WATER POWER EXCEPT AT GREAT DISTANCE FROM HER AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

IN VIEW OF THIS FACT, I HAVE SECURED THE ONLY AVAILABLE MILL SEAT FOR A MERCHANT MILL IN THIS PART OF THIS VALLEY, WHERE I PURPOSE TO ERECT A MILL OF CONSIDERABLE COST, AND OF THE CLASS OF MACHINERY THAT SHALL DO ALL THE WORK OF GRINDING, ETC. I SHALL THEREFORE, BE OBLIGED TO OBTAIN THE MACHINERY IN ENGLAND OR IN THE ATLANTIC STATES. AS YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO OBTAIN ALL THE REQUISITE INFORMATION UPON THIS SUBJECT, PERMIT ME TO ASK YOU TO ASCERTAIN IN YOUR CITY WHAT WOULD BE THE COST OF ALL THE MACHINERY OF A MERCHANT MILL TO BE DRIVEN BY A TWENTY FOOT OVERSHOT WATER WHEEL, FIVE FOOT BUCKETS TO RUN TWO PAIRS OF SIX OR FIVE FOOT STONES, MILL OF COARSE DOUBLE GRIND, WITH ALL THE APPARATUS OF SCREENS, ELEVATORS, FOR GRAIN AND FLOUR, BOLTS, ETC.,ETC., ETC., AND IN A WORD, EVERYTHING APPERTAINING TO SUCH A MILL COMPLETE FOR PUTTING INTO THE BUILDING HERE, TOGETHER WITH THE SPECIFICATION OF THE SIZE OF SUCH BUILDING, OF BRICK OR STONE; ALL ON BOARD A CLIPPER SHIP IN THE PORT OF NEW YORK, READY FOR SHIPMENT TO SAN FRANCISCO.

AT THE PRESENT TIME I SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THIS ENTERPRISE WITH MY OWN MEANS, BECAUSE I HAVE THEM ALL INVESTED IN THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN. I AM THEREFORE ABOUT TO NEGOCIATE FOR A LOAN OF MONEY FOR THE ABOVE STATED OBJECT. MY FRIENDS IN MEXICO ARE READY TO JOIN ME, BUT I AM AVERSE TO THEIR OFFERS 1ST. BECAUSE I WISH TO BE ENTIRELY ALONE FOR THE FUTURE OCCUPATION OF MY SONS, IN THIS BUSINESS, AND 2ND. BECAUSE I DO NOT CHOOSE TO ACCEPT A LOAN AT THE RATES OF INTEREST USUALLY CHARGED IN MEXICO. I AM ASSURED THAT WITH THE SECURITY THAT I CAN FURNISH, I CAN OBTAIN IN NEW YORK THE FUNDS THAT I SHALL REQUIRE AT SEVEN PER CENT PER ANNUM.

NOW PENDING A PROPOSAL THAT I HAVE MADE TO A RICH OLD SPANIARD OF GUADALAJARA FOR THE LOAN OF MONEY I REQUIRE. I BEG OF YOU TO DO ME THE FAVOR TO ASCERTAIN IN NEW YORK, AT WHAT RATE OF INTEREST YOU CAN OBTAIN THERE, A LOAN OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS

1852, OCTOBER 9TH. PAGE 3 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO FREDERICK PROBST ESQ. OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

UPON THE SECURITY OF SEVENTEEN (17) SHARES OF THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN, WORTH 51 THOUSAND DOLLARS ENTIRELY FREE FROM ALL GRAVAMEN, THE WHOLE NUMBER OF SHARES IN THIS MINE CALLED (480) FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY. THE TERMS OF THIS LOAN TO BE THREE YEARS OR MORE, INTEREST TO BE PAYABLE YEARLY IN NEW YORK OR IN SAN FRANCISCO. IN CASE THE TERMS BE MORE FAVORABLE IN YOUR CITY THAN ELSEWHERE, I SHALL TAKE LEAVE TO ASK YOU TO ACT AS MY AGENT IN EFFECTING THIS LOAN AND ALSO IN THE PURCHASE OF THE MILL APPARATUS. I REMAIN, MY DEAR SIR, YOURS SINCERELY,

JAMES ALEX. FORBES

FREDERICK PROBST ESQ. SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
NEW YORK 29TH. OCT., 1852

MY DEAR SIR - I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE TO RECEIVE YOUR ESTEEMED FAVOUR OF THE 20TH ULT., AND THE CIRCULAR LETTER OF YOUR NEW FIRM TO WHICH I REPLY " PORSEPARADO ", HEREWITH.

I AM VERY HAPPY TO LEARN THAT YOU HAVE COMMENCED YOUR BUSINESS UNDER SUCH AUSPICES AS THOSE YOU MENTION.

ON THE 9TH. INST., I WROTE TO YOU PARTLY TO RENEW OUR RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP, AND UPON BUSINESS MATTERS, WHICH IF MATTERS GO RIGHT MAY PROBABLY AFFORD ME THE PLEASURE OF AVAILING MYSELF OF YOUR INTELLIGENCE AND AT THE SAME TIME BE OF PROFIT TO YOU. FOR THIS SUBJECT I REFER YOU TO MY SAID LETTER, AND AGAIN TO THE ACCOMPANYING LETTER TO YOUR FIRM, AND TO WHICH I PRAY YOU FOR A SPEEDY ANSWER, AS UPON IT MAY DEPEND MY DECISION TO ANY PROPOSAL MADE THROUGH YOU.

I AM ONE OF THE DIRECTORS AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY FOR THE CONTEMPLATED RAILROAD FROM SAN JOSE TO SAN FRANCISCO. THIS ROAD WILL BE ONE THAT WILL BE OF VERY GREAT ADVANTAGE TO THIS PART OF CALIFORNIA AND WILL DOUBTLESS PAY A GOOD INTEREST ON THE INVESTMENT MADE FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET ALL THE STOCK SUBCRIBED BECAUSE THE MATTER HAS NOT BEEN IN ABLE HANDS, NEITHER IN CALIFORNIA NOR IN NEW YORK. A CERTAIN DR. COBB WAS SENT THITHER WITH SOME SORT OF POWER TO OFFER THE STOCK FOR SALE, BUT HE IS NOT THE MAN AT ALL. SUBSEQUENTLY OVERTURES OF SOME KIND WERE MADE TO A MR. ARGOUS OF MEXICO FOR OBTAINING THE CAPITAL FOR THIS ROAD, BUT WITH WHAT RESULT I HAVE NOT HEARD. POSSIBLY YOUR MERCANTILE CONNECTIONS IN LONDON MIGHT NEGOCIATE FOR A LOAN FOR THIS ROAD, AND IN MY NEXT LETTER, I SHALL GIVE YOU MORE PARTICULARS UPON THIS SUBJECT.

THE ABUNDANCE OF QUICKSILVER PRODUCED FROM THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN WILL DOUBTLESS KEEP THIS ARTICLE AT A MUCH LOWER PRICE THAN IT HAS COMMANDED HERETOFORE, BUT IF ALL THE SILVER MINES IN MEXICO CAN NOW BE WROUGHT BY THE FACILITY OF OBTAINING MERCURY AT LOW RATES THERE WILL STILL BE A GREAT CONSUMPTION OF IT. WE HAVE SENT LOTS OF IT TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD EXCEPT TO SPAIN! THE GREAT DIFFICULTY IS TO SELL AS MUCH AS <u>WE</u> WISH AND TO GET QUICK RETURNS OF THE CASH.

1852, OCTOBER 29TH. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO FREDERICK PROBST ESQ. OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

I HAVE CEASED WORKING THE MINE OF SAN ANTONIO FOR THIS REASON THAT THE NEW ALMADEN CAN SUPPLY THE WHOLE WORK FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

I AM GLAD THAT YOU HAVE HEARD OF OUR VICTORY OVER OUR OPPONENTS IN THIS PROPERTY, AS IT WILL TEND TO AFFIRM THE CONFIDENCE OF ANY PARTIES WHO MIGHT OFFER A LOAN OF THE MONEY I REQUIRE UPON THE SECURITY OF SHARES IN NEW ALMADEN. APROPOS I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED TO YOU THAT THE SEVENTEEN SHARES OF MINE WERE ASSESSED AT $51,000. THEY ARE REALLY WORTH MORE. PRAY INFORM ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHAT STEPS MAY BE REQUIRED HERE TO AUTHENTICATE MY PROPERTY IN NEW ALMADEN BESIDES THE CERTIFICATE OF RECORD OF TITLE HERE. OUR FRIEND, PARROTT, WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO NEGOCIATE THIS WITH ME, BUT I AM AVERSE TO DEAL WITH HIM.

I SHOULD BE GLAD TO BE ABLE TO GO TO NEW YORK FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTENDING TO THE SELECTION OF MACHINERY OF THE MILL I AM GOING TO ERECT, BUT I CANNOT LEAVE HERE, AT LEAST THIS WINTER.

WITH MANY KINDEST REGARDS FROM MY TRIBE I REMAIN,

MY DEAR SIR,

YOURS VERY SINCERELY,

JAMES ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
29TH. OCT., 1852

GENTLEMEN -

IN CONTINUATION OF A SUBJECT UPON WHICH I ADDRESSED YOUR MR. PROBST, ON THE 9TH. INST., I BEG TO ENCLOSE HEREWITH, A MEMORANDUM OF MACHINERY FOR A MILL WHICH I DESIRE TO HAVE GOT UP IN YOUR CITY SO SOON AS I SHALL HAVE MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF FUNDS IN MEXICO, OR IN YOUR CITY, AND UPON WHICH MATTER I HAVE ALSO ADDRESSED MR. PROBST. MEANTIME I PRAY YOU TO COMMENCE MAKING THE ENQUIRY AS TO WHAT WILL BE THE PROBABLE COST OF THE ARTICLES COMPRISED IN THE MEMORANDUM WITH ANY VARIATION THAT MAY BE DEEMED ADVISABLE BY A COMPETENT MILL WRIGHT AS REGARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF MY OBJECT EXPRESSED AT FOOT OF MEMORANDUM.

AWAITING AN ANSWER FROM YOU I REMAIN,
GENTLEMEN
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
30TH. OCT.,1852

GENTLEMEN -

IN ORDER TO SAVETIME I HAVE DEEMED IT EXPEDIENT TO AUTHORIZE YOU TO EFFECT THE LOAN OF MONEY FOR MY ACCOUNT, IN NEW YORK OR ELSEWHERE, AS EXPRESSED IN MY LETTERS TO YOUR MR. PROBST, UNDER DATES OF 9TH. AND 29TH. INSTANT; FOR WHICH OBJECT, I HEREWITH ACCOMPANY TO YOU, MY LETTER OF AUTHORITY, AND I BEG TO REQUEST OF YOU, THAT IN CASE YOU SHOULD EFFECT THE SAID LOAN, TO ORDER IMMEDIATELY, THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALL THE MACHINERY COMPRISED IN THE ACCOMPANYING LIST AND WITH SUCH MODIFICATIONS AS THE PARTY TO WHOM YOU SHALL INTRUST THE MECHANICAL ORDER, SHALL KNOW TO BE CONDUCIVE TO THE MOST EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THAT MACHINERY. DOUBTLESS THERE WILL NOT BE WANTING HONOURABLE AND INTELLIGENT MILL WRIGHTS IN YOUR CITY, FOR THE EFFICACIOUS DISCHARGE OF SUCH AN ORDER. I OF COURSE EXPECT THE WHOLE OF THE LIST REMITTED TO YOU TO BE FURNISHED.

IN CASE OF NEGOCIATING THIS LOAN YOU WILL REQUIRE OF COURSE MY SECURITY. HENCE THE NECESSITY OF YOUR ADVISING ME IMMEDIATELY, ON YOUR CONSUMMATING THIS OPERATION THIS OPERATION FOR OTHERWISE THAT I MAY MAKE THE PROPER LOAN. MEANTIME MY BOND MUST BE THE GUARANTEE OF YOUR STEPS IN THIS MATTER. TRUSTING THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO NEGOCIATE THIS LOAN AT LOWER RATES THAN THOSE SPECIFIED.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
30TH. OCT., 1852

GENTLEMEN -

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE YOU TO CONTRACT FOR A LOAN OF THE SUM OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR MY ACCOUNT, FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS, AT SEVEN PER CENT INTEREST PER ANNUM OR FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS AT SIX PER CENT INTEREST PER ANNUM UPON THE SECURITY STATED IN MY LETTER TO YOU, MR. PROBST, DATED THE 9TH. AND 29TH. INSTANT AND PROVIDED THAT YOU CAN NEGOCIATE THIS LOAN WITHIN SIXTY DAYS FROM THIS DATE, INTEREST PAYABLE YEARLY.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
15TH. NOV.,1852

GENTLEMEN -

IN MY LETTERS BY LAST STEAMER I OMITTED TO STATE TO YOU THAT THE SECURITY WHICH I OFFER UPON THE LOAN I AUTHORIZED YOU TO NEGOCIATE FOR ME DOES NOT EMBRACE THE PRODUCT OF THE SHARES IN THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN, BUT SOLELY THE SHARES THEMSELVES. I OMITTED ALSO TO INCLUDE IN THE LIST OF MACHINERY FOR THE MILL, ONE BRAN DUSTER. THIS ARTICLE IS A CYLINDER OF VERY FINE BRASS WIRE ABOUT FIVE OR SIX FEET LONG BY THREE FEET IN DIAMETER WITHIN WHICH REVOLVES AN AXIS CONTAINING BRUSHES. THE WIRE CANNOT BE OBTAINED OF AM. MANUFACTURE, BUT IT IS ALWAYS IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND.

THE FIRE OF SACRAMENTO HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF CAUSING A GREAT RISE IN LUMBER, BUT THE MANY MILLS ON THE TRIBUTARIES OF THE SAN JUAQUIN AND SACRAMENTO AND OREGON WILL SOON BRING THE PRICES DOWN. FLOUR WILL KEEP UP FOR SOME TIME YET.

I AM GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
NOV. 29, 1852

GENTLEMEN -

SINCE MY LAST DATES, I HAVE CAUSED A COMPETENT PERSON TO EXAMINE THE QUANTITY OF WATER THAT I HAVE AT MY MILL SEAT NEAR THIS PLACE, AND HE ASSURED ME THAT I SHALL REQUIRE A WHEEL OF TEN FEET IN WIDTH, AND OF THE DIAMETER ALREADY STATED TO YOU, IN ORDER TO DO MUCH WORK WHEN I SHALL REQUIRE TO DRIVE THE WORK OF GRINDING FOR WHICH OBJECT I SHALL HAVE A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF WATER TO ACCOMPLISH MY OBJECT, AND CONSEQUENTLY IF THE BUCKETS OF THE WATER WHEEL ARE NOT OF SUFFICIENT CAPACITY I SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO AVAIL MYSELF OF ALL THE WATER.

IN CASE OF YOUR EFFECTING THE NEGOCIATION WITH WHICH I TOOK THE LIBERTY TO INCHARGE YOU, PRAY BEAR IN MIND THAT THE MINIMUM QUANTITY OF WATER IS THREE CUBIC FEET, AND OF COURSE THAT THE MACHINERY MUST BE CONSTRUCTED UPON THIS DATA.

I HAVE NOTHING NEW TO COMMUNICATE AND REMAIN,

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JANY. 14TH.,1853

GENTLEMEN -

I DULY RECEIVED YOUR ESTEEMED FAVOUR OF THE 6TH. ULT., AND NOTICE WITH MUCH SATISFACTION THE INFORMATION YOU IMPART RELATIVE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MILL MACHINERY IN ROCHESTER, OR OSWEGO; BOTH, POINTS OF MOST EXTENSIVE MILLING OPERATIONS, AND CONSEQUENTLY THE MOST ADVANCED IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH APPARATUS.

THE LOSS OF TIME THAT NECESSARILY OCCURS IN THE NEGOCIATION OF THE LOAN I HAVE EMPOWERED YOU TO MAKE, IN ENGLAND INSTEAD OF THE ATLANTIC STATES, BY REASON EXPRESSED IN YOUR FAVOUR, IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR MY OPERATIONS AT THE ENSUING HARVEST, BUT I CONSOLE MYSELF IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND NO DIFFICULTY IN EFFECTING THIS LOAN IN ENGLAND WHEN YOU SHALL HAVE RECEIVED THIS LETTER (WHICH PLEASE CONSIDER ALSO, AS AN ANSWER TO THAT OF YOUR MR. PROBST OF THE 20TH NOV.) WHEREBY I OFFER TO YOU THE PAYMENT OF TEN PERCENT PER ANNUM FOR THE SUM OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, PAYABLE YEARLY AND UPON THE SAME SECURITY ALREADY OFFERED IN MY ANTERIOR LETTERS TO YOU, AND YOU REMAIN FREE TO EFFECT THIS LOAN AT ANY RATE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO NEGOCIATE. I REMAINING RESPONSIBLE TO YOU FOR PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST AT THE END OF THREE YEARS.

BY NEXT STEAMER I WILL ENDEAVOUR TO SEND YOU THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE AUTHENTICATION OF MY PROPERTY IN THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN. MEANTIME I PRAY YOU NOT TO MAKE ANY OVERTURES TO MACHINISTS OR CONTRACTORS, OR TO ANY OTHER PERSONS WHATEVER, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE MILL MACHINERY, BASED UPON THE SECURITY OF MY SHARES IN THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN, BECAUSE MY OBJECT IS TO OBTAIN THE LOAN OF THE <u>WHOLE SUM SOLICTED AT A LOWER RATE THAN WHAT I CAN OBTAIN FROM MEXICO</u>, AND I SHOULD NOT LIKE TO SUFFER A SORT OF HUMILIATION BY ALLOWING SUCH A PROPERTY AS THAT IN QUESTION, TO BE HYPOTHECATED FOR THE COST OF THE MACHINERY THAT I REQUIRE. I STATE THIS IN ORDER TO PREVENT YOU FROM BEING ANNOYED BY THE PROPOSITIONS OF THOSE PERSONS TO WHOM YOUR MR. PROBST IN HIS ZEAL FOR MY SERVICE MAY HAVE HINTED THAT THE MACHINERY FOR THE MILL MIGHT BE TAKEN ON SUCH TERMS.

THE OFFER CONTAINED IN THIS LETTER, WILL BE RIGIDLY ADHERED TO BY ME, WHATEVER MAY BE THE TERMS UPON WHICH YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY EFFECTED THIS LOAN IN ENGLAND. I REMAIN GENTLEMEN, YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT, JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGAN
NEW YORK

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
31 JANY.,1853

GENTLEMEN -

I AM DULY IN RECEIPT OF YOUR FAVOUR OF THE 20TH. ULT. WITH ITS ENCLOSERS FOR WHICH PLEASE ACCEPT MY THANKS.

I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE COPIES, CERTIFICATES & OF MY TITLE IN THE PROPERTY OF NEW ALMADEN IN TIME FOR THIS STEAMER. REFERRING YOU TO MY LAST DATES 14TH. INST. I HAVE NOW ONLY TO SAY TO YOU THAT IN ORDER TO ENSURE SUCCESS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MILL MACHINERY, I WILL ON RECEIPT OF YOUR ADVICES OF THE NEGOCIATION OF THE FUNDS SOLICITED, EITHER PROCEED MYSELF TO NEW YORK, OR SEND A PERSON TO CONCERT WITH YOU UPON THIS MATTER.

I LEARN THAT THE FREIGHT ON LUMBER IS SO ENORMOUS THAT IT IS MORE THAN THE COST IN CALIFORNIA, CONSEQUENTLY I THINK IT WILL BE PROPER NOT TO PURCHASE ANY IN NEW YORK.

ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE INTELLIGENCE OF YOUR NEGOCIATING THE LOAN I HAVE ENCHARGED TO YOU.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
25TH. FEBY.,1853

GENTLEMEN -

PURSUANT TO THE TENOR OF MY LAST COMMUNICATION OF THE 14TH. INST., I TAKE LEAVE TO ENCLOSE HEREWITH, THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS AS EVIDENCE OF MY TITLE IN THE MINE OF QUICKSILVER OF NEW ALMADEN SITUATED IN THIS COUNTY -VIZ-

DOCUMENT NO.1 - CONTRACT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN DON ANDRES CASTILLERO, THE DISCOVERER OF THE MINE, AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

DOCUMENT NO.2 - ACT OF POSSESSION OF THE SAID MINE BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THIS DISTRICT, UNDER THE MEXICAN LAWS.

NO. 3 - DEED OF SALE FROM ROBLES TO ME, OF TWO BARRAS OR TWO TWENTY FOURTHS OF THE SAID MINE.

NO. 4 - MY DEED OF SALE OF ONE BARRA TO JOHN PARROTT.

NO. 5 - MY DEED OF SALE OF 3/20 OF 1 BARRA TO H. LAUSENCEL AND MY POWER OF ATTORNEY TO YOURSELVES FOR EFFECTING THE LOAN THAT I DESIRE TO RAISE IN YOUR CITY, OR ELSEWHERE OF THE SUM OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

I BELIEVE THAT WITH THESE DOCUMENTS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SHOW SATISFACTORILY, MY TITLE OF 17/480 OF NEW ALMADEN, AND I THEREFORE HAVE TO REQUEST OF YOU TO PROCURE THE DESIRED LOAN OF NOT LESS THAN THE SAID SUM OF $30,000.00 AS SOON AS MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR A TERM OF NOT LESS THAN THREE YEARS NOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, AT A RATE OF INTEREST, NOT TO ACCEDE TEN PER CENT PER ANNUM; INTEREST TO BE PAYABLE YEARLY IN SAN FRANCISCO, OR IN NEW YORK, AT THE OPTION OF THE LENDER. I DESIRE THAT YOU WILL MAKE THE CUSTOMARY BOND AND MORTGAGE OF THE 17 SHARES, EXPRESSING THAT AMOUNT OF PROPERTY AS 17/480TH. OF THE WHOLE OF THE MINE AND APPURTENANCES FOR THE SUM OF THE LOAN IN DUE AND PROPER FORM.

IN DOCUMENT NO. 7, YOU DO NOT FIND THE CERTIFICATE OF THE RECORDER BECAUSE THE ORINGINAL WAS RECORDED IN THE PREFECTURE OF THIS DISTRICT, WHICH IS NOW ABOLISHED, AND THE ARCHIVES ARE IN CHARGE OF THE LOCAL JUDGE OF THAT DISTRICT WHOSE CERTIFICATE WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE.

IN DOCUMENT NO. 1, THERE WAS AN OMMISSION OF A FEW WORDS IN THE RECORD BY AN IGNORANT FOOL WHO HAD NEVER WRITTEN A WORD OF SPANISH IN HIS LIFE. THIS IS UNIMPORTANT.

1853, FEBRUARY 25TH. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

IN DOCUMENT NO. 5, YOU HAVE THE CERTIFICATE OF THE RECORDER, THAT THERE IS NO OTHER CONVEYANCE FROM ME OF ANY OF MY INTEREST IN NEW ALMADEN UP TO THIS DATE, AND I HEREBY HOLD MYSELF RESPONSIBLE TO YOU, AND TO ANY OTHER PARTY , THAT MY POWER OF ATTORNEY TO YOU, HEREWITH ENCLOSED, SHALL BE MY WARRANT AGAINST ANY FURTHER DISPOSITION OF ALL MY SAID PROPERTY IN THE MINES OF NEW ALMADEN, UNTIL I SHALL HAVE LEARNED THE RESULT OF YOUR AGENCY IN THIS MATTER OF THE REQUIRED LOAN.

I NEED SCARCELY CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION TO A RECENT SALE OF FOUR BARRAS IN THIS MINE FOR THE SUM OF $380,000.00, TO IMPRESS UPON YOUR FRIENDS THE VALUE OF THIS PROPERTY. AND I WILL ONLY ADD THAT THE DISPUTES OF RASCALLY LAWYERS IN RELATION TO THE SAME, AS A MATTER OF COURSE CAUSED MUCH EXPENSE AND VEXATION, BUT THAT WE ARE NOW FREE OF ALL THOSE TROUBLES.

TRUSTING TO LEARN BY NEXT PACKET THAT YOU WILL HAVE EFFECTED THIS LOAN, I HAVE REQUESTED MY FRIEND S.S.BARR, OF WHOM I WROTE TO YOU BY THE LAST MAIL, TO CALL ON YOU, AND TO INFORM YOU THAT HE WILL COOPERATE WITH YOU IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF MY INTEREST IN YOUR CITY, AND I BEG TO REQUEST OF YOU, IN CASE THAT YOU SHALL EFFECT THE LOAN TO APPROPRIATE THAT PART OF IT WHICH THE MILL MACHINERY MAY COST TO THE PAYMENT THEREOF, DEDUCTING THE USUAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH PAYMENT, AND REMIT ME THE REMAINDER IN BILLS OF EXCHANGE AT <u>SHORT SIGHT</u> ON UNDOUBTED HOUSES IN SAN FRANCISCO.

IT IS PROBABLE THAT MR. BARR WILL TAKE AN INTEREST WITH ME IN THE ENTERPRISE OF THE MILLING BUSUINESS. HE HAS HAD MUCH EXPERIENCE IN THIS LINE OF COMMERCE, AND I HAVE REQUESTED OF HIM, SHOULD YOU EFFECT THE LOAN, TO ATTEND TO THE SUPERVISION OF THE MILL MACHINERY ALWAYS UNDERSTANDING WITH YOU, FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF SO THAT YOU WILL BE RELIEVED OF THE TROUBLE OF ATTENDING TO THE MINUTIA OF BUSINESS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE GIVE YOU MUCH INCONVENIENCE, AND MIGHT PROBABLY HAVE SOMETHING WANTING ON REACHING ITS DESTINATION. TRUSTING THAT I HAVE FURNISHED YOU WITH ALL THE NECESSARY POWER FOR EFFECTING THE BUSINESS WITH WHICH YOU HAVE PERMITTED ME TO ENCHARGE YOU, I REMAIN GENTLEMEN, YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT, JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
26TH. FEBY., 1853

GENTLEMEN -

IN MY LETTER OF THE 14TH. INST., I MADE MENTION OF MR. MOLLER, AS A GENTLEMAN WITH WHOM MR. S.S.BARR IS CONNECTED. THIS GENTLEMAN IS THE SON-IN-LAW OF MR. MOLLER, WHO WILL PROBABLY CALL UPON YOU AS I HAVE WRITTEN TO HIM IN RELATION TO THE EXPECTATION OF MR. BARR TO JOIN ME IN THE MILLING BUSINESS, ON HIS RETURN HITHER, AND I HAVE INFORMED MR. MOLLER, THAT YOU ARE MY AUTHORIZED AGENTS FOR THE NEGOCIATION OF THE LOAN OF MONEY THAT YOU ARE EMPOWERED TO MAKE FOR ME. IT IS PROBABLE THAT MR. MOLLER MAY BE OF SERVICE TO YOU IN THIS OPERATION AS WILL ALSO BE MR. BARR. PRAY MAKE USE OF THE SERVICES OF BOTH THSES GENTLEMEN, TO CARRY OUT MY VIEWS.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

S. STENELL BARR ESQ.
NEW YORK

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
27TH. FEBY.,1853

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO COMPLETE THE DOCUMENTS IN RELATION TO THE INTEREST I HOLD IN THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN, IN ORDER TO SEND THEM TO MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZ-HAGEN THE DOCUMENTS WILL GO BY THIS MAIL. I HAVE INCLUDED WITH THEM A FULL POWER OF ATTORNEY TO THOSE GENTLEMEN, TO EFFECT THE DESIRED LOAN UPON THE SECURITY OF 17/480TH. OF THE SAID MINE, AND I HAVE MENTIONED TO THEM IN MY LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS WILL SEND THEM IN FORWARDING THE OBJECT IN VIEW, AND THAT YOUR FRIEND, MR. MOLLER WILL PROBABLY CALL ON THEM FOR INFORMATION OF ME & I HAVE ALSO STATED THAT YOU WILL TAKE AN INTEREST WITH ME IN THE MILLING BUSINESS FOR WHICH PURPOSE I HAVE DEEMED IT NECESSARY THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE THE SUPERVISION OF THE MANUFACTURE OF THE MACHINERY FOR THE MILL, IN ORDER THAT THERE SHALL BE NO UNNECESSARY EXPENSE INCURRED, AND ALSO, THAT YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER MAY OBVIATE ANY RISK IN NOT OBTAINING WHAT WE WANT.

IN MY LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS TO P.& M., I HAVE LIMITED THEM TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE LOAN, TO TEN PERCENT PER ANNUM FOR A TERM OF THREE OR FIVE YEARS. YOU HAD BETTER RECOMMEND TO THEM, THAT UPON SUCH SECURITY, THEY SHOULD EFFECT THE LOAN FOR THE FIVE YEARS. I HEREWITH ACCOMPANY TO YOU, AT FIRST, AN ORDER ON MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN YOUR FAVOUR, TO BE PAID OUT OF THE LOAN IF EFFECTED, AND TO BE USED BY YOU, FOR THE EXPENSES YOU WILL HAVE TO INCUR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS BUSINESS. I HAVE ALSO ADVISED P. & M. OF THIS ORDER. BY EXPENSES, I MEAN YOUR OWN EXPENSES.

YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE OF THE NECESSITY OF MAKING NO PURCHASES OF MATERIALS FOR THE MILL, THAT MAY BE OBTAINED HERE, I ALLUDE ESPECIALLY TO LUMBER, AND GENERALLY TO SUCH OTHER MATER-IALS, AS YOU SHALL DEEM ATTAINABLE IN CALIFORNIA, AT EQUAL PRICES AS IN NEW YORK. IN THIS AS IN ANY AND ALL OTHER MATTERS, IN RELAT-ION TO THE ACQUISITION OF THE MACHINERY, I TRUST TO YOUR JUDGE-MENT.

1853, FEBRUARY 27TH. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO MR. S. STENELL BARR ESQ. OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

I HAVE STATED TO PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN THAT THEY WILL BE RELIEVED OF THE TROUBLE OF RUNNING ABOUT IN SEARCH OF MILLWRIGHTS BY YOUR SUPERVISION OF THE MATTER, AND I WISH YOU TO CONCERT WITH THEM IN ALL NEGOCIATIONS, LETTING THEM HAVE THE BENEFIT OF RECEIVING THEIR COMMISSION ON THE PAYMENT OF THE MACHINERY & I WISH TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION THE CUSTOM OF MAKING A DISCOUNT ON CASH PAYMENT, AND ALSO TO THE NECESSITY OF TAKING EVERY ADVANTAGE OF LESSENING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE DISBURSEMENT OF CASH IN NEW YORK, IN ORDER THAT WE MAY HAVE AS MUCH FUNDS OF THE LOAN FOR THE ERECTION OF THE MILL.

SINCE YOUR DEPARTURE, I HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM P.& M., REITERATING WHAT THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN TO ME, NAMELY THAT THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY OBTAIN THE FUNDS UPON MY OFFERED SECURITY, BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE THE PURCHASE OF THE MILL MACHINERY & FOR ME, SO SOON AS I SHOULD BE INFUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF. THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY LETTER OFFERING THEM 10% ON THE SOLICITED LOAN. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PLACE MATTERS BEFORE THEM & MR. MOLLER IN SUCH LIGHT AS SHALL ENABLE THEM TO OBTAIN THE FUNDS. I EXPECT TO PAY THE 10% AND I DO NOT CARE AT WHAT RATE THEY OBTAIN THE MONEY. <u>THIS BETWEEN US</u>. IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US, TO EXPEDITE THIS BUSINESS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ADVISE ME SOON AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE DOCUMENTS, THAT THE LOAN HAS BEEN OBTAINED. AT ALL EVENTS, PRAY WRITE TO ME <u>IMMEDIATELY</u> AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THIS, ADVISING ME OF THE RESULT, THAT I MAY TAKE OTHER STEPS IN MEXICO.

REMEMBER THAT I CAN GET THE MONEY THERE AT ½ OF A PERCENT PER MONTH, BUT THAT I DO NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE, AND THEREFORE I DESIRE TO OBTAIN IT ELSEWHERE. RECOLLECT ALSO, MY POSSESSION OF THE MINE SINCE IT'S DISCOVERY, WHICH WAS UNDER MEXICAN LAW, GRANTED TO THE DISCOVERER, AND THE CONSEQUENT LEGITIMATE POSSESSION. DO NOT BE TOO SANGUINE TO PROVE OR ADVANCE TOO MUCH, FOR PROBST ALSO KNOWS ALL ABOUT THE MATTER. UPON REFLECTION, I THINK YOU HAD BETTER NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE ORDER, I NOW SEND YOU, UNTIL YOU SHALL BE CERTAIN THAT THIS LOAN IS EFFECTED.

MEANTIME, I WILL NOT WRITE ANYTHING ABOUT THE ORDER, UNTIL THE DEPARTURE OF THE STEAMER OF THE 15TH. PROXIMO.

TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER YOUR DEPARTURE, MR. TONRY CALLED ON ME TO INFORM ME THAT MAJOR CHASE WAS NOT GOING TO GIVE UP THE POSSESSION OF YOUR HOUSE, TO THE PARTIES TO WHOM MR. COOPER HAD RENTED IT! I ADVISED TONRY TO PUT THESE PARTIES INTO IMMEDIATE POSSESSION AND I GAVE HIM A FORM BOOK LEASE TO MAKE OUT A LEASE OF THE HOUSE TO THEM IN DUO FORM. THIS I BELIEVE WAS DONE, FOR THEY ARE IN POSSESSION. AND CHASE I THINK IS WITH OLD REDMAN IN BELLOMY'S HOUSE. SO MUCH FOR THE MAJOR!! WHEN I LEFT HOME I COULD NOT SEE TONRY OR COOPER FOR THEY WERE BOTH IN BED.
WE HAVE NOTHING NEW IN SANTA CLARA, ALLS WELL, I REMAIN MY DEAR SIR, YOURS SINCERELY,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
28TH. FEBY., 1853

GENTLEMEN -

IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE CHAIN OF MY TITLE IN THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN, I HAVE COME HITHER TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF MEXICO, OF THE CONCESSION OF LANDS & ETC. MADE TO DON ANDRES CASTILLERO ON THE MINING POSSESSION. THIS CERTIFICATE YOU WILL FIND ENCLOSED HEREWITH TOGETHER WITH ALL THE OTHER DOCUMENTS OF WHICH I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU, UNDER THE DATE OF THE 25TH. INST.. THIS CERTIFICATE IS DULY CERTIFIED TO BY MR. EDWARDS, COMMISSIONER FOR NEW YORK, AS IS ALSO, THE CERTIFICATE OF H.C. MALONE, THE COUNTY CLERK OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY BY THE SAME COMMISSIONER. I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO ADD THAN TO ASSURE YOU THAT EVERYTHING IN RELATION TO THIS MATTER IS CORRECT, AND HOPING THAT YOU WILL NOW FIND NO DIFFICULTY IN EFFECTING MY OBJECT. I REMAIN, GENTLEMEN,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

SIGNOR SALVATOR ROSA
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
11TH. MARCH, 1853

YOUR FAVOUR OF THE 9TH. INST., HAS BEEN RECEIVED. I HEREBY AGREE TO TAKE THE COLLAND & COLLAND PIANOFORTE, OF WHICH I WROTE YOU ON THE 5TH. INST., AT THE OFFER YOU HAVE ACCEPTED, NAMELY FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS, PAYING YOU THE EXPENSE OF PACKING AND CARTAGE & ETC. I THEREFORE HAVE TO REQUEST OF YOU, TO HAVE THIS INSTRUMENT CAREFULLY PACKED, PLACING BLANKETS OR SOME OTHER DEFENCE AGAINST THE TOP & SIDES, AND IF YOU THINK IT EXPEDIENT, LET THE LEGS AND STOOL BE PACKED SEPARATELY; AND SHIP THE WHOLE ON BOARD OF THE STEAMER WEBER, ON MONDAY NEXT FOR ALBISU, DIRECTED TO ME AT THIS PLACE. MARK ON THE OUTSIDE,"WITH GREAT CARE". SEND YOUR BILL TO ME, WITH THE RECEIPT OF THE STEAMER BY MAIL AND I WILL SEND YOU IMMEDIATELY THE MONEY. PRAY BE CAREFUL IN THE PACKING AND TRANSPORTATION OF THE PIANO, LEST IT TAKE DAMAGE THAT MIGHT DISAPPOINT OUR HOPES OF IT.

I REMAIN YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

STENELL S. BARR ESQ. SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
NEW YORK 14TH. MARCH,1853

MY DEAR SIR,

I WROTE YOU FROM SAN FRANCISCO, ON THE 27TH. ULT., AND I PRESUME THAT YOU ARE SAFELY ARRIVED IN NEW YORK BY THIS DAY. AT ALL EVENTS, I HOPE SO. THERE IS NO ARRIVAL FROM SAN JUAN AT SAN FRANCISCO OF ANY STEAMER SINCE YOU LEFT. THE STEAMER INDEPENDENCE IS PROBABLY LOST, AS NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD OF HER FOR THE LAST TWENTY DAYS, WHEN SHE WAS SEEN OFF CAPE SAN LUCAS. THE TENNESSEE, WAS LOST ON THE 9TH. JUST OUTSIDE OF THE ENTRANCE OF SAN FRANCISCO, ON THE NORTHERN SIDE . ALL PASSENGERS SAVED, BUT YOU WILL SEE ALL THIS BY THE NEWSPAPERS.

I AM OFFERED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE MILL SEAT, BUT OF COURSE I DO NOT FEEL DISPOSED TO SELL IT. I HAVE TOLD THE PARTY THAT I DO NOT WISH TO SELL AT ANY PRICE. I HOPE THAT BEFORE THIS REACHES YOU THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ACQUISTION OF THE FUNDS IN NEW YORK WILL BE EFFECTED. I THEREFORE SAY NOTHING, IN ADDITION TO THAT I WROTE YOU, BY THE LAST MAIL OTHER THAN A SHORT LETTER TO PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN ADVISING THEM THAT I HAVE DRAWN ON THEM IN YOUR FAVOUR FOR THE $1,000.00 MENTIONED IN THY LAST LETTER TO YOU.

I PRESUME THAT MR. TONRY WILL HAVE INFORMED YOU THAT YOUR HOUSE IN THIS PLACE IS FREE FROM SQUATTERS, AND THAT IT IS RENTED TO SOME PERSONS WHO HAVE A HOTEL THERE. THE MAJOR IS ENJOYING HIMSELF WITH OLD RED AT THE HOUSE OF THE LATTER. THERE HAVE BEEN NO LESS THAN THREE CLAIMS PRESENTED FOR THE LANDS OF THIS MISSION FOR ADJUDICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS! ONE IS IN THE NAME OF T.O. LARKIN, AND ANOTHER BY A FELLOW NAMED ARNAZ WHO LIVES NEAR SANTA BARBARA.

MY FAMILY CONTINUES TO ENJOY USUAL HEALTH AND DESIRE TO MAKE KIND REMEMBERANCES TO YOU.

I REMAIN, MY DEAR SIR, YOURS VERY TRULY,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 14,1853

GENTLEMEN-

UNDER DATE OF THE 28TH. ULT., I HAVE DRAWN UPON YOU, FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN FAVOUR OF S.S. BARR, TO BE PAID OUT OF THE FUNDS THAT YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOCIATE FOR ME IN YOUR CITY, OR ELSEWHERE BY MY LAST ADVICES OF ABOVE DATE.

I AM GENTLEMEN,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
8TH. APRIL, 1853

GENTLEMEN -

I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR ESTEEMED FAVOUR OF THE 5TH. ULT. WITH ITS ENCLOSURE.

I PERCEIVE BY THE TENOR OF BOTH OF THOSE COMMUNICATIONS, THAT YOU STILL VIEW THE PROBABILITY OF EFFECTING THE DESIRED LOAN AS PRECARIOUS, BUT I HOPE THAT AFTER HAVING REVIEWED THE DOCUMENTS THAT I SENT TO YOU ON THE 28TH. FEBY., YOU WILL HAVE MADE ANOTHER EFFORT, AND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EFFECT THE OBJECT I HAVE IN VIEW.

I CANNOT BE TOO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR UNWEARIED ATTENTION IN THIS MATTER, AND I SHALL TAKE MUCH PLEASURE IN RECIPROCATING THE SAME WHENEVER, AND HOWEVER I SHALL BE ABLE WHETHER YOUR LABOUR BE CROWNED WITH SUCCESS OR NOT. I HAVE ONLY TO SAY IN ADDITION, THAT I AM ANXIOUSLY AWAITING YOUR NEXT LETTER, AND IF IT SHOULD STILL BE UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO EFFECT MY OBJECT, I SHALL THEN AGAIN SUGGEST FURTHER VIEWS IN RELATION TO THE ACQUISTION OF THE MACHINERY I DESIRE.

I AM GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

S.S. BARR ESQ.
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
31ST. MAY, 1853

MY DEAR SIR -

YOURS OF THE 19TH. ULT., CAME DULY TO HAND, CONTENTS DULY NOTICED, I SHOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THE NEGOCIATION FOR THE OPENING OF THE MILL SPECULATION CARRIED OUT IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR FRIENDS KERCHOFF & DESOLA. AND I HOPE THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE CONTEMPLATED ERECTION OF THE MILL. ACCORDING TO THE ADVICE OF PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN IT APPEARS THAT THEIR INQUIRES REGARDING THE COST OF MACHINERY IN NEW YORK WILL BE MUCH MORE THAN YOU OR I ANTICIPATED, SAY $16,000.00. THIS IS TOO HIGH A FIGURE TO COMMENCE WITH, AND WOULD BE A SUM ENTIRELY TOO HIGH FOR WHAT IS REQUIRED. I AM QUITE CERTAIN THAT IF WE CAN GET TWO PAIRS OF STONES RUNNING, DURING THIS AUTUMN, IT WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF WHEAT THAN CAN BE OBTAINED THIS YEAR. FLOUR IS QUITE LOW, AS YOU WILL SEE BY THE PRICES CURRANT, AND THERE HAVE BEEN LARGE QUANTITIES OF THIS ARTICLE SHIPPED FROM CHILE. CONSEQUENTLY I HAVE TO REQUEST OF YOU, IN CASE THE LOAN IS EFFECTED, NOT TO CONSENT TO THE PURCHASE OF ANY MACHINERY THAT SHALL COST MORE THAN $10,000.00 ON BOARD SHIP IN NEW YORK.

WE HAVE BEEN ANNOYED LATELY BY THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRENCHMAN, SIMOND, WHO HAS ATTACKED HERNANDEZ AND MYSELF ALLEDGING CLAIM TO A PART OF THE LAND OF HERNANDEZ AND ALSO A PART OF MINE. SIMOND MADE A FORCEABLE ENTRY ON THE LAND OF HERNANDEZ FOR WHICH THIS PERSON SUED HIM, AND OBTAINED DAMAGES FOR $1500.00 COSTS. HE APPEALED (SIMOND) TO THE COUNTY COURT, WHERE THIS DECISION WAS AFFIRMED. AND NOW HE HAS AGAIN APPEALED TO THE DISTRICT COURT; CASE TO COME ON NEXT WEEK. IN CONSEQUENCE OF THESE DIFFICULTIES, HERNANDEZ ASKS FOR A DIVISION OF THE LAND OF THE RANCHO, BETWEEN HIMSELF AND PERALTA, AND HAS HAD A SURVEY MADE WHEREBY IT IS FOUND THAT PERALTA HAS 1 HUNDRED ACRES MORE ON THE SIDE THAT HE CLAIMS, THEN THERE ARE ON THE SIDE OF HERNANDEZ. THIS QUESTION MAY NOT BE DECIDED VERY SOON. I AM ALL RIGHT, FOR I HAVE PURCHASED FROM BOTH PARTIES, ALLTHOUGH SIMOND PRETENDS TO HAVE PURCHASED A PART OF MY LAND FROM PERALTA, YET I AM IN POSSESSION.

1853, MAY 31ST. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO S.S. BARR ESQ. OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

I HAVE STATED THE SUM LIMITED FOR THE MILL MACHINERY BECAUSE I AM WELL INFORMED OF THE HIGHEST PRICE THAT IT COULD POSSIBLY COST, AND I BELIEVE THAT MY INFORMATION IS CORRECT. EVERYBODY IS OF THE OPINION THAT FLOUR WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN LOW THE WHOLE OF THIS YEAR. IN CASE THE LOAN SHOULD BE EFFECTED YOU CAN BUY A CARRIAGE AND HARNESS OF THE CLASS AND PRICE YOU MENTION. AS TO FURNITURE, I THINK I SHALL NOT WANT ANY.

MY FAMILY CONTINUE TO ENJOY USUAL HEALTH AND SEND YOU KIND REMEMBERANCES.

I REMAIN MY DEAR SIR,
YOURS SINCERELY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
MAY 31,1853

GENTLEMEN -

I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF YOUR ESTEEMED FAVOUR OF THE 13TH. ULT. BY WHICH I OBSERVE THAT YOUR MONEY MARKET REMAINS IN THE STATE IN WHICH IT WAS, AT YOUR ANTERIOR DATES. MR. S.S. BARR WROTE ME UNDER THE DATE OF THE 19TH. ULT. MANIFESTING GREAT HOPES OF INDUCING SOME OF HIS FRIENDS TO TAKE THE OFFERED SECURITY, YOU HAVE IN HANDS, FOR EFFECTING THE PROPOSED LOAN.

IN CASE THIS LOAN SHOULD BE MADE, I HAVE AUTHORIZED, MR. BARR TO CONTRACT FOR THE MILL MACHINERY,(ALWAYS UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION), FOR A SUM NOT OVER $10,000.00.

I HOPE THAT BY YOUR NEXT ADVICES I SHALL HAVE THE PLEASURE TO LEARN THAT THIS TRANSACTION HAS BEEN CLOSED.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

JOHN YOUNG ESQ.

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 22,1853

MY DEAR SIR,

IN CONSEQUENCE OF A ROBBERY OF TWO HORSES AND A SADDLE FROM THE HOUSE OF JOSE HERNANDEZ, LAST EVENING. I HAVE LEARNED THE FOLLOWING INTELLIGENCE WHICH I HASTEN TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU. THE SAID HORSES AND SADDLE WERE STOLEN BY SOME MEMBERS OF A BAND OF SONORENUS ROBBERS, ABOUT FIFTEEN OR EIGHTEEN IN NUMBER, HEADED BY A RASCAL KNOWN BY THE NAME OF LUIS GUIBIA, THE SAME WHO WAS CONFINED IN THE JAIL OF SAN JOSE, FOR SOME LENGTH OF TIME, DURING LAST YEAR, AND WHO ULTIMATLY WAS DISCHARGED, BUT HAS CONTINUED IN THIS COUNTY TO COMMIT SMALL ROBBERIES. THERE IS ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL CONNECTED WITH THE BAND WHO IS KNOWN BY THE NAME OF PSCHOTE AND WHOSE WIFE OR WOMAN IS SAID TO BE DETAINED AT THE MINE OR HACIENDA OF NEW ALMADEN. THIS FELLOW HAS LOST THE TWO LARGE TOES OF ONE OF HIS FEET BY THE ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF HIS OWN PISTOL. THE WIFE OR WOMAN OF GUIBIA IS NOW AT THE MILPA AT THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE LANDS OF CORK & BERRYESSA WHERE A NUMBER OF THE GANG RESORT WITH SAID GUIBIA.

IT IS SOME DAYS SINCE THIS PARTY OF ROBBERS HAD CONTEMPLATED A FORAY UPON THE HACIENDA FOR ROBBING THE SAME, BUT BY SOME MEANS WHICH I DID NOT GAIN THEIR PLAN TRAIFNUTRATIA FOR THE TIME. I AM INFORMED SECRETLY THAT THE SAME PARTY ARE NOW PLOTTING FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, AND I THEREFORE WRITE TO PUT YOU ON YOUR GUARD. I SHALL COMMUNICATE THIS INFORMATION TO SHERIFF JOHNSON TODAY, AND I SHALL ALSO TAKE MEASURES TO OBTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION POSSIBLE FROM THE PARTIES WHO KNOW THESE RASCALS THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE THEIR DESSERTS.

YOU OF COARSE WILL TAKE SUCH MEASURES AS YOU SHALL DEEM MOST EXPEDIENT TO AVERT ANY DANGER FROM SUCH PEOPLE, BUT PRAY DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THIS REPORT. I HAVE IT FROM PEOPLE WHO KNOW THAT SUCH IS THE FACT.

THE HORSES STOLEN LAST NIGHT WERE ONE SORREL BRANDED ONE FOREFOOT AND ONE HIND FOOT, WHITE STAR IN THE FOREHEAD, AND IN GOOD ORDER. ONE ROAN HORSE, BRANDED . IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY BE TAKEN TO THE MINE OR HACIENDA. THE HAUNTS OF THE THIEVES ARE THE MILPAS IN THE VICINITY OF SAN JOSE. THEY ASSURE THEIR OWN COUNTRYMEN THAT THEY WILL NOT DO THEM ANY HARM PROVIDED THEY DO NOT GIVE ANY INFORMATION OF THEM THE SAID ROBBERS, BUT MY INFORMATION IS FROM SOME OF THEIR OWN WOMEN WHO NEVER THE LESS DO NOT KNOW THAT I RECEIVE SUCH INTELLIGENCE. I REMAIN, MY DEAR SIR, YOURS TRULY,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

S.S. BARR ESQ.
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
29TH, AUGUST, 1853

MY DEAR SIR -

ON THE 30TH. ULT. I WROTE TO YOU, TO INFORM YOU, THAT I REVOKED MY POWER OF ATTORNEY TO MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN OF NEW YORK, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE LOAN OF MONEY FOR WHICH SAID POWER WAS GRANTED. I ALSO STATED TO YOU THAT I SHOULD EFFECT MY ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBTAINING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE CONTEMPLATED ENTERPRISE OF THE ERECTION OF THE MILL HERE. I HAVE NOW THE PLEASURE TO WRITE THAT, ON THE FIRST OF NOVEMBER PROXIMO, I SHALL HAVE FUNDS IN HAND FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE NECESSARY MACHINERY IN THE MOST ELIGIBLE POINT IN NEW YORK STATE, AND THAT IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE ADVANCE OF THIS SEASON, I THINK IT ADVISABLE TO DEFER THE PURCHASE OF THE MILL MACHINERY UNTIL THE MONTH OF JANUARY, SO THAT THE RAINY SEASON SHALL HAVE PASSED BEFORE ITS ARRIVAL IN SAN FRANCISCO.

I HAVE CONVERSED WITH TWO INTELLIGENT MILL WRIGHTS, UPON THE SUBJECT OF MILL MACHINERY, OF THE MOST MODERN PLAN, AND SUCH AS I DESIRE TO HAVE PUT UP, AND I AM ASSURED BY THEM, THAT THE WHOLE OF THIS CLASS OF MACHINERY CAN BE OBTAINED AT ROCHESTER FOR SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS. ONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IS NOW AT WORK ON THE MILL OF MR. HORNE AT CAMPBELL'S CREEK. HE HAS LONG WROUGHT AT ROCHESTER, AND HAS GIVEN ME THE ADDRESS OF SOME ARTIFICERS THERE, AMONGST WHOM IS A MR. F. BUSH, OF SOMESTANDING. ON RECEIPT OF THIS, I PRAY YOU TO ASCERTAIN AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE THE COST OF THE MACHINERY OF A MILL, SUCH AS YOU DESCRIBE IN YOUR LETTER TO ME, DATED JUNE 21 AND WHICH IS BUILT OF STONES. I DO NOT MEAN TO INCLUDE IN THE COST OF SUCH A MILL, ANY THING ELSE THAN THE WHOLE MACHINERY COMPLETE, ON BOARD SHIP IN NEW YORK. THE LUMBER WILL OF COURSE CONSTITUTE A SEPARATE CHARGE. I SHOULD SAY PLANKS, DOORS, & WINDOWS; AS THE OTHER LUMBER WILL ALL BE OBTAINED HERE. DO NOT FAIL TO ANSWER ME BY THE NEXT STEAMER, AFTER RECEIPT OF THIS, SO THAT I SHALL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE DEFINITIVELY REGARDING THIS MATTER. PLEASE SEND ME THE DIAGRAM OF THE MILL BUILDING. I THINK 65 BY 100 FEET WILL BE OF SUFFICIENTLY LARGE DIMENSIONS FOR PRESENT PURPOSES. I SHALL COMMENCE TO BUILD THE DAM, TO HAVE WOOD CUT FOR BURNING BRICK AND LIME SO AS TO BE READY TO BUILD IN MAY NEXT.

1853, AUGUST 29TH. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO S.S. BARR ESQ. OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

I SHALL NOT REQUIRE ANY FUNDS FROM YOUR FRIENDS KERCHOFF DESOLA CO., BUT I SHALL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO TRANSACT BUSINESS WITH THEM IN PROCURING THE SALE OF FLOUR & PURCHASE OF WHEAT WHEN THE MILL SHALL BE IN OPERATION.

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE TITLE TO THE MILL SEAT PERFECTLY SURE, I SHALL PUT A SCHOOL LAND WARRANT UPON IT NEXT WEEK AND IN CASE OF DISPUTE WITH ANY PARTY, I SHALL ERECT THE MILL ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE STREAM. THE FRENCHMAN, SIMOND, IS PRETTY WELL CONVINCED THAT HE CAUGHT A TARTAR WHEN HE CAME INTO COLLISION WITH ME. HE HAS LOST THE SUIT IN THE DISTRICT COURT AND BY THE ADVICE OF HIS LAWYER, HE HAS AGAIN APPEALED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THIS STATE, WHERE HE WILL PROBABLY FIND THAT HIS LAWYER IS LEADING HIM A DANCE. A FRIEND OF THE FRENCHMAN CAME TO ME LAST WEEK SOLICTING A COMPROMISE BY PAYING ALL COSTS AND LEAVING THE LAND UNDIVIDED BETWEEN PERALTA AND HERNANDEZ, BUT THIS PROPOSITION IS INADMISSABLE.

I FORGOT TO SAY THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF MILL MACHINERY IN SAN FRANCISCO TOGETHER WITH MILL STONES OF DIFFERENT SIZES. THERE IS ONE MILL OF THREE RUNS OF STONES FOR SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, BUT THE WATER WHEEL WOULD NOT SERVE FOR THE FALL OF SANTA ROSA WITHOUT ALTERATION.

YOU ARE IN FAVOUR OF A PITCH BACK WHEEL OF THIRTY FEET - WHAT IS IT TO BE MADE OF? AND HOW WIDE? THE HEAD AND FALL CAN BE OBTAINED FOR IT, AS IT WOULD REQUIRE ALL THAT WE CAN CONVENIENTLY GET, SAY 26 FEET, AND THE LEVERAGE WOULD BE 15 FEET, WHICH WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS IN ONE RESPECT, FOR THE MOTION WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY SLOW FOR THE BUCKETS TO BE WELL FILLED, BUT THERE WOULD BE NO GREAT ADVANTAGE IN DOUBLE GEARING, FROM THE MASTER WHEEL OR MAIN DRIVER. THIS HOWEVER, IS THEORETICALLY SPEAKING. I AM NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO DISCARD PRACTICE AND EXPERIENCE IN FAVOUR OF THEORY. I BELIEVE THAT EXPERIENCE IS THE MOTHER OF SCIENCE, AND THEREFORE, I TRUST TO THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE, BUT I SHOULD PREFER IRON WHEREVER IT CAN BE USED WITH SUCCESS, IN PLACE OF WOOD, AND NO BANDING - ALL SPUR GEARING.

THE OLD ADOBE STEAM MILL HAS PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF EIGHT INDIVIDUALS OF THE FORMER COMPANY. THEY ARE DOING TOLERABLY WELL WITH NEW BOILERS. WHEAT IS 3½ CENTS AND HOLDERS WHO CAN RETAIN IT, DECLINE SELLING AT THIS FIGURE.

1853, AUGUST 29TH. PAGE 3 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO S.S. BARR ESQ. OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

I THINK SOMETHING MAY BE DONE AMONG THE CHINESE POPULATION OF THIS STATE, BUT I HOPE THAT SUCH MACHINERY SHALL BE ERECTED AT "SANTA ROSA" AS WE'LL MAKE FLOUR AS GOOD AS CAN BE PRODUCED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD; SO THAT ITS OPERATION WILL ENSURE ITS EASY SALE.

THERE ARE SEVERAL FOUNDRIES AT SAN FRANCISCO THAT TURN OUT GOOD WORK AT ABOUT 10 CENTS PER POUND, WHICH, ALLTHOUGH ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MUCH AS THE PRICE OF CASTING IN ROCHESTER, MIGHT BE ADMISSABLE FOR HEAVY CASTINGS, PROVIDED THERE BE NO DIMINUTION IN THE HIGH CHARGES FOR FREIGHT AROUND CAPE HORN.

HOWEVER, ON THE WHOLE I SHOLD PREFER TO HAVE THE MACHINERY ALL COMPLETE FROM ROCHESTER SO AS TO BE SURE OF ITS EFFICACY, IN ACCOMPLISHING THE DESIRED OBJECT.

I REMAIN MY DEAR SIR,

YOURS TRULY,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
29TH. AUGUST, 1853

I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ADDRESSING YOU ON THE 30TH. ULT. TO INFORM YOU THAT I WAS ABOUT EFFECTING MY ARRANGEMENT FOR OBTAINING THE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE MILL MACHINERY RESPECTING WHICH, I HAVE TROUBLED YOU SO MUCH. I HAVE NOW THE SATISFACTION TO STATE THAT ON THE 1ST. OF NOVEMBER PROXIMO, I SHALL HAVE MY FUNDS IN HAND, AND THAT THE MOMENT I SHALL ASCERTAIN THE COST OF THE SAID MACHINERY, I SHALL REMIT TO YOU THE CASH FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE SAME. IN ORDER THEREFORE TO EXPEDITE THIS MATTER, I HAVE WRITTEN TO MR. BARR TO REQUEST HIM TO ACSERTAIN AT ONCE WHAT WILL BE THE COST OF SAID MACHINERY IN ROCHESTER, AND I BEG TO REQUEST OF YOU TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM UPON THIS POINT AND TO INFORM ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I DO NOT EXPECT, NOR WISH TO RECEIVE THE MILL MACHINERY IN SAN FRANCISCO BEFORE THE END OF APRIL NEXT, SO AS TO AVOID THE DIFFICULTIES ATTENDANT UPON THE RAINY SEASON. MEANTIME I SHALL PREPARE THE DAM AND SUCH MATERIALS AS SHALL BE OBTAINED HERE, SO AS TO BE READY TO COMMENCE BUILDING EARLY IN THE ENSUING SPRING. IF THE MACHINERY BE SHIPPED IN JANUARY AND THE VESSEL CONVEYING IT HAVE AN AVERAGE PASSAGE, I THINK I MAY BE SURE OF RECEIVING IT EARLY IN MAY.

SINCE MY LAST ADVICES TO YOU, I HAVE REPURCHASED 3/20TH. OF ONE BARRA IN THE MINE OF NEW ALMADEN FOR $8,000.00 CASH, WHICH WILL GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF WHAT MAY BE THE REAL VALUE OF ONE "BARRA" OF THAT PROPERTY. HOW LITTLE WERE YOUR MONEY CHANGERS ACQUAINTED WITH THE SECURITY YOU OFFERED ON THE LOAN SOLICITED FOR ME! I THANK GOD THAT THAT PROPERTY WAS NOT MORTGAGED, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A FAIR TRANSACTION, AND THAT THIS DAY, IT IS UNENCUMBERED AS IT EVER WAS & MORE PRODUCTIVE.

IF MR. BARR SHOULD REQUIRE ANY MONEY FOR HIS EXPENCES, YOU WILL FAVOUR ME BY ADVANCING HIM FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ON MY ACCOUNT.
I REMAIN GENTLEMEN, YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT, JAS. ALEX. FORBES.
P.S. - I HAVE NOT MENTIONED ANYTHING TO MR. BARR, RELATIVE TO MY REQUEST FOR THE ADVANCE TO HIM, OF THE ABOVE STATED SUM. PERHAPS YOU WILL HAVE THE KINDNESS TO MENTION THIS MATTER TO HIM, IF YOU SHOULD DEEM IT NECESSARY, OR IF HE SHOULD REQUIRE THE MONEY.

A.P. CRITTENDEN ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 2,1853

MY DEAR SIR,

IT IS WITH MUCH ANXIETY THAT ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE TITLE TO RINCONADA DE LOS GATOS ARE AWAITING THE DECISION OF THE U.S. COMMISSIONERS THEREON. THE SQUATTERS HAVE ALREADY COMMENCED TAKING CLAIMS, ON THIS TRACT, AND IF IT BE REJECTED BY THE COMMISSIONERS IT WILL CAUSE A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE AND DAMAGE TO THE OWNERS.

I HAVE ASSURED HENANDEZ THAT YOU HAVE DONE ALL THAT YOU COULD DO, AND THAT YOU WILL NOT FAIL TO PASS THE CASE OF ADMISSION OF MY TESTIMONY. PRAY INFORM ME IF THAT TESTIMONY WILL BE ADMITTED AND IF THERE IS ANY PROBABILITY OF THE CONFIRMATION OF THIS TITLE SOON.

I REMAIN MY DEAR SIR,
YOURS TRULY
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

S.S. BARR
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 10TH.,1853

MY DEAR SIR,

BY DUE COURSE OF POST, I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR TWO FAVOURS OF 18TH. OCTOBER & 5TH. NOVEMBER SIMULTANEOUSLY, ENCLOSING PLAN OF A MILL OF TWO WATER WHEELS & ESTIMATE OF COST, WHICH I THINK IS A PRETTY HIGH FIGURE. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE THAT THE NEW PLAN OF ONE WATER WHEEL FOR EACH SET OF TWO RUNS OR PAIRS OF STONES OF THE REQUIRED DIAMETER, 4½ FEET, WILL SERVE A BETTER AND MORE EFFECTIVE PURPOSE THAN ONE WATER WHEEL, TO DRIVE THREE RUNS OF THE SAME SIZED STONES.

I HAVE SELECTED THE SITE OF THE MILL, OPPOSITE TO THE POINT WHERE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO MOST ELIGIBLE, AND FOR TWO PRINCIPAL REASONS: 1ST. THAT A GREATER FALL IS OBTAINED, 2ND. IT IS NEARER TO THE STONE QUARRY & 3RD. I SHALL HAVE NO RISK OF THE ILL RESULT OF ANY FURTHER DISPUTE WITH ANY OTHER PARTY. THE EXACT FALL FROM LEVEL TO LEVEL, THAT IS TO SAY, FROM THE SITE OF THE DAM TO THE LEVEL OF THE STREAM ABREAST OF WHEEL PIT IS 19½ FEET. THE POWER OF THE SEAT FOR THREE RUNS OF STONES IN THE LOWEST STAGE OF THE WATER IS SEVENTY FIVE BARRELS OF FLOUR, FOR 21 HOURS, COMPUTED BY A MILL WRIGHT OF EXPERIENCE.

UPON THESE DATA, YOU WILL BE ABLE ASCERTAIN EXACTLY, THE SIZE OF THE WHEELS, WHICH I THINK WILL BE EFFICIENT IF NOT LESS THAN TWENTY FEET IN DIAMETER AND EIGHT FEET OF BUCKETS. BUT I WISH YOU TO ACT IN THIS AS IN ALL OTHER MATTERS APPERTAINING TO THE PURCHASE OF THIS MILL MACHINERY, UNDER THE ADVICE OF PRACTICAL PERSONS, AND ACCORDING TO THE BEST OF YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT, FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE DESIRED END, NAMELY, THE MOST EFFICIENT MACHINERY FOR PROPULSION BY THE SAID POWER OF WATER FOR MAKING THE BEST CLASS OF FLOUR.

IN VIEW OF THE PRICE ASKED FOR THE SAID MILL MACHINERY, IT IS EVIDENT THAT SUCH MACHINERY MUST BE OF THE MOST PERFECT KIND, AND OF THE VERY FIRST CLASS OF MATERIAL EFFECTIVE OF LABOR SAVING, AND IN THIS BELIEF I HEREBY AUTHORIZE YOU TO CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MACHINERY PROVIDED IT COMPRISE <u>EVERYTHING</u> <u>REQUIRED</u> FOR THE WHOLE OF THE WORK TO BE DONE IN THE MILL IN THE MOST EFFICIENT AND COMPLETE MANNER, AND THAT ITS WHOLE COST DOES NOT PASS THE STATED SUM OF NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

IT WILL THEREFORE BE NECESSARY FOR YOU: 1ST. TO MAKE THE CONTRACT, AND GET THE GROUND PLANS AND ELEVATIONS OF THE BUILDING, NOT OF THE DIMENSIONS YOU STATE, BUT FIFTY FEET BY FIFTY FEET, BECAUSE THE EXPENSE OF BUILDING WILL BE MEASURABLY LESSENED BY THE AUGMENTATION IN THE PRICE OF THE MACHINERY. I SHALL REQUIRE THESE PLANS IMMEDIATELY, IN ORDER THAT I SHALL NOT BE DELAYED IN THE BUILDING OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF WHICH, I HAVE ALREADY COMMENCED. THE WHOLE OF THE MACHINERY MUST BE READY IN NEW YORK BY THE LAST OF FEBRUARY TO BE SHIPPED FOR SAN FRANCISCO BY PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN TO WHOM I SHALL REMIT THE FUNDS FOR ITS PROMPT PAYMENT.

BE CAREFUL TO HAVE THE ELEVATION WELL EXPLAINED, MARKING THE POINTS OF WALL TO BE LEFT OPEN FOR SHAFTS OF WATER WHEELS, OR OF THE PINION WHEELS, IF THESE BE DRIVEN BY SEGMENTS ON THE PERPENDICULAR SURFACES OF THE WATER WHEELS, AS ALSO APERTURES FOR SHUTTERS, WHICH SHOULD BE ON THE BASEMENT IN ORDER TO BLOW THE CHAFF AND DIRT FROM THE WHEAT DIRECTLY INTO THE WHEELPIT- IN A WORD I PRAY YOU TO OMIT NOTHING THAT WILL RETARD THE BUILDING, PENDING ITS ARRIVAL HERE.

I HAVE ALREADY THE WHEELPIT EXCAVATED, AND A NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED GETTING OUT LARGE QUANTITIES OF STONE. I HAVE ALSO 1500 QUINTALS OF LIME BURNT AND HOUSED IN A HOUSE I HAVE HAD BUILT ABOUT TWENTY YARDS FROM THE WHEELPIT. THE MEN ARE ALSO EMPLOYED IN GETTING TOGETHER LARGE QUANTITIES OF GRAVEL BEFORE THE INUNDATION SHALL CARRY AWAY EVERYTHING.

DO NOT LOOSE SIGHT OF THE QUALITY OF THE MILL STONES, AND ASCERTAIN WHAT IS THE NATURE AND EFFICIENCY OF A CERTAIN STONE DRESSER, RECENTLY PATENTED BY SOMEBODY IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, SAID MACHINE TO BE WORKED BY THE WATER WHEELS OF ANY MILL. PERHAPS THIS MACHINE MIGHT SAVE LABOUR. BE CAREFUL OF THE BOLTING CLOTHS, LET THEM BE PACKED IN TIN CASES MADE AIR TIGHT & BE THEY MIGHT BE RUINED BE SWEAT OR DAMP ON BOARD SHIP. LOOK SHARP TO THE QUALITY OF THE BOLTS. RECCOLLECT THAT UPON THE FIRST FLOUR MADE IN THE MILL WILL DEPEND ITS FORTUNE GOOD OR BAD REPUTATION AND CONSQUENT SUCCESS OR RUIN SO FAR AS QUALITY OF FLOUR GOES.

1853, DECEMBER 10TH. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO S.S. BARR OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

YOU ARE PROBABLY UNAWARE THAT THERE ARE NOW A NUMBER OF STEAM MILLS IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND ONE AT ALBISU, AND ANOTHER OF EIGHT RUNS OF STONE AT UNION CITY, SAN JOSE MISSION LANDING. PROBABLY THERE WILL BE ANOTHER ONE AT SAN JOSE (PUEBLO) ON THE SITE OF THE ONE NOW OWNED BY MR. BASHAN. SANTA ROSA MILLS MUST BE OF SUFFICIENT GOODNESS OF MACHINERY AND TO BEAT DOWN ALL OPPOSTION AND MUST DEPEND UPON THE VALLEY OF SANTA CLARA FOR ITS SUPPLY OF WHEAT TO BE PURCHASED FOR CASH. I THINK THAT WAGONS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF WHEAT FROM ANY POINT BEYOND THE VALLEY.

LET ME HEAR FROM YOU IMMEDIATELY AND PRAY SEND THE PLANS AS I HAVE REQUESTED BY THE VERY FIRST MAIL AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THIS.

I HAVE RECEIVED THE MUSIC FOR WHICH & ALL THE MANY THANKS. MY DAUGHTER DESIRES TO SALUTE YOU AND YOUR LADY AND TO ASK YOU TO PROCURE FOR HER SOME RECHERCHE SPANISH SONGS AND GOOD OLD SPANISH WALTZES, WHICH BY THE BY, I SUPPOSE ARE DISCARDED BY THE FAST PEOPLE OF THE PRESENT DAY.

I AM MY DEAR SIR,
YOURS SINCERELY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
13TH. DECEMBER,1853

GENTLEMEN -

I HAVE DULY RECEIVED YOUR LAST FAVOURS WITH DUPLICATE RECEIPT OF THE PAYMENT OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO MR. STENELL S. BARR, FOR MY ACCOUNT OF WHICH I HAVE TAKEN NOTE.

I HAVE NOW TO INFORM YOU THAT I HAVE THIS DAY AUTHORIZED SAID MR. BARR TO PURCHASE FOR ME THE WHOLE OF THE MILL MACHINERY, WHICH I REQUIRE, FOR A SUM NOT EXCEEDING NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS. SAID MACHINERY TO BE DELIVERED TO YOUR ORDER, SPECIFYING PARTICULARS IN BILLS OF MILL WRIGHTS & OTHER CONTRACTORS, FOR PAYMENT BY YOU, WITH FUNDS THAT I SHALL OPPORTUNELY REMIT TO YOU, AND FOR SHIPMENT BY YOU TO SAN FRANCISCO CONSIGNED TO BOLTON, BARRON, & COMPANY. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE SAID MACHINERY WILL BE PURCHASED AT ROCHESTER IN NEW YORK AND BE TRANSPORTED TO YOUR CITY BE RAILROAD, AND IT THEREFORE WILL BE NECESSARY THAT YOU SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE PRECISE TIME OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE WHOLE OF IT IN ORDER THAT YOUR ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE IN DUE TIME, FOR ITS SHIPMENT AND INSURANCE.

IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE OUT AN INVOICE TO PRESENT TO THE CUSTOM HOUSE FOR THE CORRESPONDING CERTIFICATE OF THE AMERICAN MANUFACTURE OF ALL THE MACHINERY, OTHERWISE I MAY HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE AT SAN FRANCISCO.

YOUR INVOICE AND BILL OF LADING WILL REQUIRE TO BE SENT BOLTON, BARRON, & COMPANY, AND YOUR ACCOUNT OF DISBURSEMENTS OF MONIES TO ME.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY COMPLAINTS OF CONSIGNEES OF GOODS RECEIVED AT SAN FRANCISCO OF OVERCHARGES OF FREIGHT AND ANTICIPATED OBLIGATIONS OF PAYMENT OF FREIGHTS WHICH I CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION FOR YOUR GUIDANCE. I SHOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS MACHINERY FROM THE VESSELS TACKLES AFLOAT, BUT AS THOSE VESSELS GENERALLY HAUL ALONG SIDE THE WHARFS IT MIGHT BE OBJECTED TO. THIS IN REALITY WOULD NOT BE AT ALL DIFFICULT, FOR THE LIGHTER COULD HAUL ALONG SIDE AND WITH MORE CONVEINENCE THAN IN PUTTING IT ON A WHARF, WHICH WOULD CAUSE ME MUCH EXPENSE TO REHOIST TO PUT IN A LIGHTER.

I AM GENTLEMEN
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

A.P. CRITTENDEN ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
17TH. MARCH,1854

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE BEEN FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS AWAITING THE CONFIRMATION OF THE TITLE OF THE LAND OF SEBASTIAN PERALTA & JOSE HERNANDEZ WHO PLACED THE SAME TO YOUR CHARGE FOR PRESENTATION, BUT I HAVE BEEN MUCH DISAPPOINTED IN NOT HAVING THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING THIS TITLE CONFIRMED. I AM MUCH INTERESTED IN THIS TITLE, FOR BELIEVING IT TO BE INDISPUTABLE, I HAVE PURCHASED FROM HERNANDEZ APART, AND I AM NOW IN TREATY FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS HALF, AND I HAVE A MORTGAGE ON A PART OF PERALTAS REMAINDER. IS IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO PUSH THIS CASE BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS? PRAY DO TRY AND GET IT THROUGH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND I SHALL BE HAPPY TO REMUNERATE THIS EXTRA TROUBLE OF YOURS HANDSOMELY.

I AM YOURS TRULY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
29TH. MARCH, 1854

GENTLEMEN,

MY LAST DATE WAS OF THE 11TH ULT. FORWARDING TO TO YOU BILLS OF EXCHANGE FOR $11,000.00, ELEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE MILL MACHINERY, WHICH DRAFTS I TRUST YOU HAVE RECEIVED.

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR ORIGINAL & DUPLICATES OF THE 20TH. ULT., BUT AS I HAD SENT YOU THE DRAFTS, I DID NOT MAKE A REMITTANCE OF THE $500.00 YOU ADVANCED TO MR. BARR FOR MY ACCOUNT. PRAY CHARGE ME THE INTEREST ON THIS SUM UNTIL YOU CAN GET THE MONEY FOR THE BILLS AND ALTHOUGH I ACCEDED IN MY LAST, TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL $500.00 I NOW WISH YOU TO WITHHOLD THAT PAYMENT UNTIL I SHALL ADVISE YOU FURTHER.

I AM GOING ON RAPIDLY WITH THE MILL BUILDING. IT IS TO BE OF STONE, AND THE WALLS ALONE WILL COST OVER TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE FOUNDATION IS FINISHED AND I AM MOST ANXIOUS FOR THE PLANS I HAVE REQUESTED YOU TO SEND ME. IF I DO NOT RECEIVE THEM VERY SOON I SHALL BE OBLIGED TO SUSPEND MY WORK.

ALL I REQUIRE IS THE HEIGHT OF FLOORS AND BREADTH OF WHEEL PIT. OF COURSE I SHALL WANT A MORE PARTICULAR PLAN OF THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING. AT THE MOMENT I AM MOST ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM YOU AND I BEG TO IMPRESS ON YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF MY HAVING THE MACHINERY HERE BY THE MIDDLE OF JULY SO AS TO COMMENCE WORK IN AUGUST.

I PRAY YOU TO ALLOW NOTHING TO BE WANTING THAT I MAY NOT BE THROWN OUT OF MY PLANS FOR COMMENCING TO REPAY THE VERY LARGE OUTLAY THAT I AM BOUND TO MAKE. I SHALL WRITE TO YOU BY NEXT MAIL IN RELATION TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE MILL WRIGHT & MILLER WHOM I WISH TO BE MEN OF CAPABILITY AND CHARACTER, NO CALIFORNIA ADVENTURERS WILL DO FOR ME, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE MANY INTELLIGENT MEN AMONG THEM.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 11,1854

GENTLEMEN,

UNDER DATE OF 29TH. ULT. I WROTE TO YOU IN RELATION TO THE PLAN OF MY MILL BUILDING WHICH I HOPE TO RECEIVE BY THE NEXT STEAMER. I HAVE UPWARDS OF THIRTY MEN NOW AT WORK IN QUARRY AND ON THIS BUILDING, AND YOU MAY THEREBY JUDGE THAT I AM GOING ON RAPIDLY.

THE WHEAT CROP, THIS SEASON, IS SPLENDID, AND IF I CAN BE READY TO COMMENCE GRINDING, ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE HARVEST, I SHALL BE ABLE TO DO A GREAT DEAL.

I DESIRE THAT YOU WILL PLEASE TO EMPLOY A FIRST RATE INTELLIGENT MILL MACHINIST FROM THE WORKS OF THE FIRM THAT IS TO FURNISH THE MACHINERY TO COME OUT HERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PUTTING UP THE SAME. THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT TO BE THAT I SHALL PAY SUCH A MAN THE CURRENT WAGES OF THE STATE, AT THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL HERE. ALSO A FIRST RATE STEADY, SOBER, HONEST HEAD MILLER, TO WHOM I WILL ALSO PAY THE CURRENT WAGES OF THE STATE. I SHOULD PREFER AN EUROPEAN. 1 COOK, IRISH OR ENGLISH, WHO HAS BEEN SOMETIME IN AMERICAN MILLS, AND IF HE BE A MAN OF FAMILY I SHALL HAVE NO OBJECTION.

WITH REGARD TO PASSAGE OUT, I DO NOT LIKE TO INCUR THIS EXPENSE FOR IT IS TO THE BENEFIT OF THESE OPERATIVES AS WELL AS MINE, THAT THEY COME TO MY SERVICE. I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THESE MEN UPON THESE TERMS AND LET THEM COME OUT WITH THE MACHINERY. THE MILL WRIGHT MIGHT COME BY STEAMER, TO BE ON TIME FOR THE DAM, WHICH IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED.

I SHALL REQUIRE A TELL TALE CLOCK, FOR THE WATCHMAN IN THE MILL. THIS IS KIND OF CLOCK TO WHICH IS ATTACHED AN APPARATUS THAT REQUIRES TO BE PULLED BY A STRING, EVERY HALF HOUR, TO SHOW THAT THE WATCHMAN IS AT HIS POST. I DO NOT KNOW IF YOU WILL FIND ONE IN YOUR CITY, BUT YOU CAN OBTAIN INFORMATION OF THEM AT THE MILL WRIGHTS.

THE WEIGH HOPPER TO BE FURNISHED WITH THE MACHINERY, IS TO BE FURNISHED WITH GROOVED WHEELS FOR THE IRON RAILS UPON WHICH IT IS TO RUN.

I SHALL ALSO REQUIRE A SEWING MACHINE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE KIND FOR SEWING BAGS, FOR THE FLOUR, ALSO A BRAND MADE ACCORDING TO PATTERN ENCLOSED, WITH DUPLICATES OR YOU MAY HAVE SIX OF THEM MADE AND SEND A NUMBER OF BRUSHES WITH WHICH THE IMPRESSION IS TO BE MADE ON THE BAGS.

1854, APRIL 11 PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

IF THIS SHOULD NOT REACH YOU IN TIME FOR THE SHIPMENT OF THESE ARTICLES BY THE VESSEL THAT TAKES THE MACHINERY, YOU CAN SHIP THEM BY SOME OTHER VESSEL.

I PRAY YOU TO EXPEDITE THE SHIPMENT OF ALL THE ARTICLES COMPRISING THE MACHINERY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND BY THE FASTEST CLIPPER.

I AM GENTLEMEN,
YOURS TRULY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. EGLESTON & JEWELL
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
MAY 28,1854

GENTLEMEN,

BY THE LAST MAIL I RECEIVED A COPY OF A LETTER FROM YOU TO MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN OF NEW YORK IN RELATION TO A SET OF MILL MACHINERY TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY YOU FOR ME UNDER A PROPOSAL YOU MADE TO MR. BARR. I REGRET TO LEARN THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE FALLEN INTO THE ERROR OF SUPPOSING THAT MY POWER OF WATER HEAD AND FALL IS ONLY SIXTEEN FEET WHERE YOU HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY INFORMED THAT THE HEAD AND FALL UPON WHICH I CALCULATED TO WORK WOULD BE 22 FEET. WHEN I STATED TO YOU ON FEBRUARY 13TH., MY MILL SEAT HAS A FALL OF 16 FEET FOUR INCHES FROM THE LEVEL OF THE WATER AT THE SITE OF THE DAM TO THE BOTTOM OF THE WHEEL PIT OR TAIL RACE, I DID NOT SUPPOSE THAT YOU WOULD ESTIMATE THAT FALL AS FROM THE SURFACE OF THE DAM BUT AS THE ACTUAL AND NATURAL FALL OF THE WATER IN THE STREAM IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY DAM OR HEAD BECAUSE MR. BARR HAVING INSPECTED THE SEAT HAD INFORMED YOU THAT I SHOULD HAVE A HEAD AND FALL OF 22 FEET.

IN ORDER TO REMEDY THE UNFORTUNATE DELAY THAT HAS OCCURRED, I NOW SEND TO MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN AN EXACT GROUND PLAN AND ELEVATION OF MY MILL BUILDING WHICH IS OF STONE THROUGHOUT, AND IN CASE YOU SHALL PROCEED TO CONSTRUCT THE MACHINERY YOU WILL BE IN POSSESSION OF ALL THE DATA NECESSARY FOR ITS PERFECT COMPLETION. I DESIRE THEREFORE TO CALL YOUR PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE DIMENSIONS OF THE BUILDING AS EXPLAINED ON THE PLAN AND IF YOU FIND THAT THE POWER OF THE SEAT SHOULD REQUIRE NINE FEET OF LENGTH OF BUCKETS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM SO, AND MY AGENT WILL PAY YOU THE DIFFERENCE OF PRICE.

IN ORDER TO LEAVE NO POSSIBLE POINT UNDEFINED I HAVE AGAIN HAD AN ENGINEER TO GUAGE THE QUANTITY AND FALL OF THE WATER, WHICH IS AS EXPRESSED BELOW.

I INTEND TO HAVE SMUT & SCOURING MACHINE ON THE LOWER FLOOR, OF WHICH PLEASE TAKE NOTE AND ARRANGE IT ACCORDINGLY. YOU WILL OBSERVE THAT THERE IS NO TRANSVERSE WALL FOR THE HUSK FRAME. I PRAY YOU THEREFORE TO WRITE TO ME THROUGH P.& M. IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF THIS, AND STATE TO ME WHAT IS THE EXACT POSTION OF THAT WALL, IF IT IS TO BE BUILT, & WHAT WILL BE ITS BEST DIMENSIONS, OR WHETHER I AM TO HAVE THE HUSK SUSTAINED BY FRAMING OF TIMBER, AS ALSO ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY DEEM CONDUCIVE TO THE STRENGTH, SOLIDITY, & EFFICIENCY OF THIS MACHINERY.

1854, MAY 28 PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO EGLESTON & JEWELL OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

THE REPUTATION OF THE MACHINERY HAS PRECEDED EVEN ITS CONSTRUCTION, BY THE FAVORABLE REPORT OF MR. BARR AND I SINCERELY HOPE THAT IT MAY BE IN SAN FRANCISCO BEFORE THE HEAVY RAINS SHALL HAVE SET IN AND PREVENT ITS TRANSPORTATION TO THE MILL SEAT. I PRAY YOUR ATTENTION TO THE QUALITY OF THE MILL STONES AND THEIR SIZES, AND TO THAT OF THE BOLTS. THE SMUT & MACHINE WILL I AM TOLD BY MR. BARR BE THAT OF HARRIS & SONS TO WHICH WILL BE ADDED THE PATENT SEPARATOR. YOU WILL OBSERVE THAT THE MILL CAN BE APPROACHED ON EITHER SIDE AND AT THE N.E. SIDE BY WAGONS AND THAT I HAVE PLACED A BRIDGE 16 FEET WIDE ON THE TAIL RACE. MY OBJECT IN THIS ARRANGEMENT IS TO EXPEDITE THE DISCHARGE OF WHEAT ON THE ONE SIDE AND FLOUR ON THE OTHER WITHOUT INTERFERING.. I EXPECT TO START THE WHEAT FROM BAGS FROM THE WAGONS THROUGH AN ORIFICE IN THE WALL ON THE SOUTH EAST SIDE AT THE POINT MARKED O ON THE GROUND PLAN, BUT IF YOU SHOULD DEEM IT BETTER TO MAKE ANY OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS OBJECT, PLEASE MAKE KNOWN THE SAME TO ME, WITH THE EXACT POSITION OF SINKS, WEIGH HOPPER, & WITH RESPECT TO THE ELEVATORS FOR THE SMUTTERS. ALSO THE DIMENSIONS OF SINK OR SINKS, IN ORDER THAT I MAY HAVE THEM PREPARED IMMEDIATELY.

THE BUILDING IS NOW FIFTEEN FEET HIGH AND I CAN MAKE NO ALTERATION EXCEPT ON THE HEIGHT OF THE 3 STORY. YOU WILL THEREFORE SEE THE NECESSITY OF WORKING ACCORDING TO THE PLANS NOW SENT.

THE HEAVY OUTLAY OF CAPITAL IN THIS MILL, $70,000.00, WAS COMMENCED IN THE TRUST I HAVE IN YOUR CAPACITY FOR CONSTRUCTING SUCH MACHINERY AS SHALL HAVE NO EQUAL IN THIS PACIFIC, AND WHICH WILL ENABLE ME TO MAKE BETTER FLOUR THAN HAS YET BEEN MANUFACTURED IN CALIFORNIA. IF I SHALL NOT REACH MY EXPECTATIONS I SHALL BE MUCH DISAPPOINTED. MY MILL BUILDING IS CONSTRUCTED OF THE BEST QUALITY OF STONE THROUGHOUT. THE WALLS ALONE ABOVE THE FOUNDATION WILL COST ME $12,000.00 DOLLARS, AND THE WOOD WORK IS FULLY IN PROPORTION. MY FLUME IS 880 YARDS LONG AND I CANNOT SAY HOW MUCH IT WILL COST. I HAVE BEEN STRONGLY ADVISED TO HAVE BUT ONE WATER WHEEL, BUT I BELIEVE YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN DO THE MANY MILL WRIGHTS WHO ARE IN THIS COUNTRY. IN A WORD I DESIRE TO IMPRESS UPON YOU THE GREAT NECESSITY OF MAKING THE WATER <u>DO ALL THE WORK</u> AND THUS AVOID THE PAYMENT OF LARGE EXPENSES TO HANDS ABOUT THE MILL. PLEASE BEAR THAT PARTICULARLY IN MIND.

1854, MAY 28 PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO EGLESTON AND JEWELL OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

THE EXACT NATURAL FALL OF WATER IN THE STREAM IS 14.005 FEET, AND THE GUAGE OF THE WATER IS 1604 CUBIC FEET WITH A VELOCITY OF FEET PER MINUTE - SEE NOTE ENCLOSED.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

P.S. YOU HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM IN THE BUILDING TO PLACE ALL THE MACHINERY, THEREFORE, I LEAVE TO YOUR DIRECTION THE PLACING OF EVERY PART, SMUTTERS & ALL. DO AS YOU MAY DESIRE BEST, BUT LET ME KNOW THE POSITION AND SIZE OF SINK OR SINKS.

NOTE - THE PIERS ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE MILL BUILDING ARE FOUR FEET DEEP, AND THREE & A HALF FEET SQUARE ON WHICH PIERS ARE BLOCKS OF GRANITE 16 CUBIC INCHES & UPON THESE REST THE COLUMNS WHICH SUPPORT THE FIRST CEILING OR STONE FLOOR WHICH IS THE SECOND STORY OF THE BUILDING SO THAT IN YOUR DIMENSIONS OF SINKS, YOU WILL MAKE YOUR CALCULATIONS OF THE SPACES BETWEEN THE PIERS & THE FOUNDATIONS OF MILL. THE FOUNDATION WALLS ARE FOUR FEET THICK, AND AVERAGING 6 FEET 8 INCHES BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE GROUND, WITH 10 FEET FOUNDATION OF WALLS ON THE SIDE OF WHEEL PIT OR TAIL RACE.

I HAVE THIS DAY RECEIVED THE SURVEY OF THE WATER POWER OF THIS SITE, AND THE FOLLOWING IS THE EXACT VOLUME OF WATER 46,201 INCHES PER SECOND, MEAN VELOCITY 28.31 FEET PER SECOND, OR 1604 CUBIC FEET PER MINUTE.

TOTAL FALL OF STREAM FROM THE SURFACE OF THE WATER IN THE CREEK (NOT IN DAM FOR THERE IS NO DAM YET) TO THE BOTTOM OF WHEEL PIT OR TAIL RACE 14.005 FEET.DISTANCE OF CENTRE OF WHEEL PIT OR TAIL RACE (WHICH WILL BE CENTRE OF BUCKETS) FROM SITE OF DAM 2672 FEET.

DIMENSIONS OF FLUME 4 FEET BY 18 INCHES DEEP.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY THESE DATA THE NECESSARY SIZE OF FLUME TO CARRY ALL THE WATER FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES.

JA. A. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
MAY 29,1854

GENTLEMEN,

I AM IN RECEIPT OF YOUR FAVOUR OF THE 20TH. ULT. WITH DUPLICATES OF ANTERIOR DATES. I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED THE GROUND PLAN OF THE MILL BUILDING TRANSMITTED BY MESSRS. EGLESTON & JEWELL OF ROCHESTER TO YOU, AND BY YOURSELVES TO ME BY EXPRESS. I REGRET TO SAY THAT THIS PLAN IS OF NO USE TO ME, FOR IT GIVES ME NO GRADE BY WHICH, I SHOULD HAVE CAUSED THE MILL BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN CONFORMITY TO THE MACHINERY. THE UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE INTO WHICH YOU HAVE FALLEN IS OF A VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE TO ME. MY INTRUCTIONS TO YOU ON THE 11TH. OF FEBRUARY WAS SO EXPLICIT THAT I COULD NOT SUPPOSE THAT ANY OBSTACLE COULD HAVE PRESENTED ITSELF TO PREVENT THE ACQUISITION OF THE MILL MACHINERY UNDER THOSE INSTRUCTIONS AND MORE ESPECIALLY AS MR. BARR HAD ALREADY STATED TO THOSE MACHINISTS THE NECESSARY PARTICULARS RESPECTING THE CLASS OF MACHINERY REQUIRED BY ME, AND NOTHING WAS REQUIRED BY THOSE WORKMEN OTHER THAN MY CONSENT OR ORDER TO CONSTRUCT THE SAME. THE FACT OF MY SAYING TO THEM THAT THE FALL OF WATER WAS 16FEET, HAD OR SHOULD HAVE HAD NO BEARING OR INFLUENCE ON MY INSTRUCTIONS TO YOU. THE UNFORTUATE RESULT OF NOT ADHERING DEPRIVES ME OF THE MEANS OF GRINDING THE WHEAT OF THE WHEAT OF THE PRESENT HARVEST, AND CONSEQUENTLY PREVENTS ME FROM REIMBURSING THE VERY HEAVY EXPENSES I AM UNDER IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BUILDING, WHICH ALONE WILL COST ME FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. I FULLY COUNTED UPON HAVING THE MACHINERY HERE BY THE LAST OF AUGUST, BUT UNDER THE ACTUAL STATE OF THE BUSINESS, I FEAR THAT I SHALL HAVE MADE A GREAT LOSS BEFORE I CAN DISEMBARRASS MYSELF OF THE HEAVY RESPONSABILITIES THAT BESET ME, FOR WANT OF THIS MACHINERY WHICH DOUBTLESS, WOULD HAVE REALIZED ME ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY TO TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS PER DAY, BY HAVING IT IN OPERATION IN AUGUST. WHY COULD NOT THOSE MILL WRIGHTS HAVE CONSTRUCTED THE INTERIOR MACHINERY AND HAVE LEFT THE WATER WHEELS PENDING COMMUNICATIONS FROM ME? I INFORMED YOU THAT I HAD BEGUN THE BUILDING AND THAT I WAS OBLIGED TO CONTINUE IT. IN VIEW OF ALL THE DISAGREEABLE RESULTS THAT AWAIT ME, I HAVE REVOLVED IN MY OWN MIND WHAT SHALL BE NOW MY BEST COURSE TO REMEDY AS FAR AS MAY BE POSSIBLE THE UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN LED BY DEPARTING FROM MY INSTRUCTIONS, DOUBTLESS BY THE FOOLISH SUGGESTIONS OF THOSE MILL WRIGHTS, WHO HAD BEEN WELL INFORMED BY MR. BARR OF THE CLASS

1854,MAY 29TH. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

OF MACHINERY REQESTED BY ME AND PARTICULARLY OF THE FALL OF WATER WHICH THEY MUST KNOW I CAN AUGMENT AT MY PLEASURE BY AUGMENTING THE HEIGHT OF MY DAM, AND THEREFORE, I SAY IT WAS FOOLISH FOR THEM TO MAKE ANY SUGGESTION ABOUT CHANGING THE SIZE OF THE WATER WHEELS.

IN ORDER TO REMEDY AS FAR AS MAY BE POSSIBLE THIS ERROR AND PREJUDICIAL DELAY, I NOW SEND YOU THE NECESSARY PLANS OF THE MILL BUILDING- BY WHICH CARRY INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THOSE MACHINISTS - MAY BE AT HAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALL THE MILL MACHINERY. I ALSO SEND YOU A LETTER TO EGLESTON & JEWELL COMMUNICATING TO THEM THE EXACT GUAGE OR QUANTITY OF WATER, AND ITS FALL, WITH OTHER INFORMATION THAT I CONSIDER NECESSARY FOR THEM, AND I NOW AUTHORIZE YOU TO CARRY OUT THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT, AS MADE WITH MR. BARR, WHICH STIPULATED THAT EGLESTON & JEWELL WERE TO FURNISH THE WHOLE MACHINERY IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER (LESS THE MILL STONES WHICH THEY WERE TO PROCURE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK) OF THE VERY BEST AND MOST COMPLETE CLASS FOR THE SUM OF $9,000.00. THIS MACHINERY TO COMPRISE EVERY ARTICLE AND PIECE OF MACHINERY REQUESTED AND NECESSARY FOR THE MOST PERFECT MANUFACTURE OF FLOUR.

I PRAY YOU THEREFORE TO ASCERTAIN IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF THIS WHETHER THESE PARTIES WILL FULFILL THIS CONTRACT, AND IF SO, I PRAY YOU TO USE THE UTMOST DISPATCH IN HAVING ALL THE MACHINERY CONSTRUCTED THAT IT MAY BE SHIPPED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE, BY THE FASTEST CLIPPER, THAT IT MAY REACH SAN FRANCISCO BEFORE THE HEAVY RAINS SHALL HAVE SET IN, AND PREVENT ITS TRANSPORTATION TO THE INTERIOR, EXCEPT AT AN ENORMOUS EXPENSE.

IF THE AFORESAID MILL WRIGHTS DO NOT FEEL INCLINED TO CONSTRUCT THE SAID MILL MACHINERY ACCORDING TO THEIR AGREEMENT WITH MR. BARR, THEN I DESIRE THAT YOU WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO SECURE ITS ACQUISTION EITHER IN NEW YORK, OR AT ROCHESTER, AND PROCEED AS ABOVE DIRECTED AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY ANTERIOR ADVICE FOR ITS SHIPMENT.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MY DEAR MR. LOWRY,

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
MAY 30,1854

I HAVE REV. BLOCKS & ROPE, ALL IS RIGHT, ALL-THOUGH THE ROPE APPEARS SHORT.

HOW MUCH DID YOU SEND?

PLEASE SEND UP ONE CASK OR TIN PERHAPS WOULD BE BETTER OF CUMBERLAND COAL BY FIRST OPPORTUNITY. SO SOON AS I SHALL HAVE BREATHING TIME I SHALL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SEEING YOU IN SAN FRAN-CISCO. EXCUSE HASTE.

YOURS TRULY,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

R.O. LOWRY ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 7,1854

MY DEAR SIR,

WILL YOU DO ME THE FAVOUR TO ASCERTAIN WHAT MAY BE THE PROBABLE COST OF THE CASTING FOR A WHEEL (WATER) TWENTY FEET IN DIAMETER, 8 FOOT BUCKETS, SHAFT, & FLANGES (2), THE REST WILL BE MADE OF WOOD; ALSO THE NECESSARY CASTINGS OF A SEGMENT WHEEL TO BE BOLTED ON THE WATER WHEEL, TWO PINS OF IRON 4½ FEET, AND IN A WORD THE NECESSARY MACHINERY FOR THE TWO RUN OF STONES, ALSO THE SHORTEST TIME IN WHICH THE CASTINGS CAN BE PREPARED AND WHO IS THE MOST REPUTABLE FOUNDER. THE MISTAKE OF MY AGENT IN NEW YORK, WILL PREVENT ME FROM RECEIVING THE MACHINERY ORDERED THERE, BEFORE DECEMBER, AND I SHALL THEREFORE, I WISH TO GET UP ONE WHEEL & TWO RUNS OF STONES IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENT CROP.

PRAY EXCUSE ALL THE TROUBLE I GAVE YOU AND BELIEVE ME.

YOURS TRULY,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

I AM VERY MUCH OCCUPIED WHICH PREVENTS ME FROM GOING TO SAN FRANCISCO. THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION IN SENDING THE COAL & ETC.

T.S. JOHNSON ESQ.

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 9TH.,1854

DEAR SIR,

PRESENT - HAVING BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN THE ACQUISITION OF A SET OF MILL MACHINERY FOR A MILL I AM NOW ERECTING, BY REASON OF A MISTAKE IN THE DIAMETER OF WATER WHEELS, AND HAVING MADE MY ARRANGEMENT FOR CASH PURCHASES OF WHEAT, AT THE ENSUING HARVEST, I AM DESIROUS TO PROCURE THE USE OF A COMPETENT MILL FOR GRINDING WHEAT THAT I SHALL PURCHASE.

PENDING AN ANSWER THAT I AWAIT FROM OTHER PARTIES, OWNERS OF MILLS IN THIS COUNTY, I ADDRESS THIS NOTE TO YOU, AS THE AGENT OF THE STEAM MILL IN THIS TOWN AND REQUEST TO KNOW IF THE SAID MILL CAN BE RENTED BY ME, AND UPON WHAT TERMS.

I AM DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. BOLTON, BARRON, & CO.
TEPIC, MEXICO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 12,1854

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE DRAWN SEVERAL BILLS ON YOU LATELY, & YOU HAVE ALSÓ PAID SEVERAL A/CS. THAT I HAVE REQUESTED TO BE PRESENTED TO YOU. FOR ALL THIS TROUBLE BEG YOUR FORBEARANCE AND THANK YOU VERY KINDLY, BUT I DO NOT WISH TO OVER DRAW AND I THEREFORE BEG OF YOU TO SEND ME A MEMORANDUM OF MY CASH A/C.

I AM ENDEAVOURING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GRINDING WHEAT, OF THIS HARVEST, AND BEFORE ENTERING UPON THIS BUSINESS WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR OPINION OF THE PERSPECTIVE FLOUR MARKET.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOURS SINCERELY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 12TH.,1854

GENTLEMEN -

I AM IN RECEIPT OF YOUR LAST FAVOUR OF THE 5TH. MAY, ENCLOSING A LETTER FROM EGLESTON & JEWELL OF ROCHESTER, TOGETHER WITH THE PLANS SENT FOR MY MILL BUILDING THE CHARGE OF WHICH ($50-) I NOTE.

IN MY LAST LETTER BY THE STEAMER OF THE 1ST. INST. I ENCLOSED TO YOU A GROUND PLAN & ELEVATION OF THE MILL BUILDING IN A LETTER TO THOSE MILL WRIGHTS, OPEN FOR YOUR PERUSAL, AND BY WHICH YOU WILL HAVE LEARNED MY VIEWS AND WANTS, IN RELATION TO THE MILL MACHINERY, AND I HAVE NOW TO REQUEST OF YOU TO URGE THE CONSTRUCTION OF IT, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THERE CAN BE NO WANT OF OPERATIVES IN ROCHESTER TO EXPEDITE THE MANUFACTURE OF THE MACHINERY, AND IT CAN BE ALL MADE & READY FOR TRANSPORTATION TO NEW YORK, IN SIXTY DAYS AS I AM ASSURED BY MR. BARR, HE WAS SO INFORMED BY EGLESTON & JEWELL THEMSELVES.

THE PLANS OF THE MILL BUILDING, ARE OF NO USE TO ME, AS THE MACHINERY IS TO BE RUN BY A DIFFERENT POWER THAN THAT WHICH IS REALLY THE ONLY POWER THAT IS AVAILABLE. I WILL HOWEVER ENDEAVOUR TO MAKE USE OF THE PLANS FOR THE PLACING OF THE TIMBERS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING. I SHALL ALSO ADDRESS EGLESTON & JEWELL BY THIS MAIL.

I REMAIN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. EGLESTON & JEWELL
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 13,1854

GENTLEMEN -

I HAVE RECEIVED THE PLANS OF THE MILL BUILDING, WHICH YOU FURNISHED MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN FOR MY A/C., AND ALTHOUGH THE ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR MY BUILDING, I WILL ENDEAVOUR AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO CONFORM TO THEM. I EARNESTLY REQUEST YOU TO PUSH FORWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MACHINERY AND TO SEND IMMEDIATELY SUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THOSE GENTLEMEN, AS SHALL EXPEDITE THE FINISHING OF THE MILL BUILDING, AND IF YOU DEEM IT NECESSARY, YOU CAN SEND ANY NEW PLANS ON A SMALLER SCALE.

I AM GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 25TH.,1854

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE DULY RECEIVED YOUR FAVOUR OF THE 20TH. ULTIMO, ENCLOSING A LETTER TO ME FROM EGLESTON & JEWELL OF ROCHESTER, AND A COPY OF YOUR CONTRACT ON MY BEHALF, WITH THEM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MILL MACHINERY.

THE CONTRACT APPEARS TO EMBRACE THE OBJECT INTENDED. THE INSERTION OF THE CLAUSE RELATIVE TO THE PACKING APPARATUS IS CORRECT. I DID NOT EXPECT IT TO BE FURNISHED.

THOSE GENTLEMEN REQUEST ME NOW, TO CONSTRUCT THE ROOF OF MY MILL BUILDING, ACCORDING TO A DIAGRAM THEY HAVE SENT ME, IN THE ABOVE CITED LETTER, BUT IT IS TOO LATE TO DO SO, AS THE ROOF OF THE IS ALREADY FINISHED. IN FACT THE WHOLE BUILDING IS COMPLETED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PLANKING OF THE LOWER FLOOR, WHICH MUST REMAIN UNFINISHED, UNTIL I SHALL RECEIVE THE MACHINERY. I NOW CALL THE ATTENTION OF THESE MILL WRIGHTS TO MY FORMER DIAGRAM OF THE BUILDING AND I SEND THEM UNDER THIS DATE, A PLAN OF THE ELEVATION OF THE LAST STORY, IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY CONFORM THE HOPPER BAY TO THE DIMENSIONS THEREOF

I NOW DESIRE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION THE GREAT EXPENSES THAT I HAVE INCURRED IN THIS ENTERPRISE, AND TO THE CONSEQUENT LOSS THAT WILL ARISE TO ME, BY NOT HAVING THE MILL IN OPERATION THIS SEASON, AND WITHOUT TROUBLING YOU WITH ANY MORE REFLECTIONS ON THIS UNFORTUNATE TOPIC. I DESIRE TO IMPRESS UPON YOU THE NECESSITY OF HAVING THE MILL MACHINERY TO LEAVE ROCHESTER, ON A CANAL BOAT, AND BEFORE THE TRANSIT BY CANAL SHALL HAVE BECOME CLOSED BY ICE; OTHERWISE, I SHALL SUFFER MORE EXPENSES AND DELAY. I DESIRE THAT YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO INSIST THAT ALL THE SAID MACHINERY BE FINISHED BY THE LAST DAY OF THE TERM STIPULATED, OTHERWISE YOU WILL NOT TAKE IT, AND THAT YOU HOLD THE CONTRACTOR TO THE PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF LIQUIDATED DAMAGES EXPRESSED IN THE CONTRACT. BUT IN CASE THE MACHINERY SHOULD BE FINISHED IN TIME, YOU WILL PLEASE CAUSE THE SAME TO BE SHIPPED BY CANAL BOAT SO THAT THE WHOLE SHALL BE DISCHARGED FROM THE BOAT INTO THE VESSEL THAT SHALL TAKE THE FREIGHT OF IT, FOR SAN FRANCISCO, AND THUS AVOID EXTRA EXPENSE IN REMOVING IT FROM A RAILROAD DEPOT TO THE SHIP.

1854, AUGUST 25TH. PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN OF NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

IN CASE YOU SHOULD BE OBLIGED TO DECLINE RECEIVING THE MILL MACHINERY FOR THE CAUSE ABOVE EXPRESSED OR FOR ANY OTHER CAUSE YOU WILL THEN PLEASE DEDUCT FROM THE ORIGINAL SUM REMITTED TO YOU BY ME, THE EXPENSES YOU HAVE INCURRED FOR MY A/C. AND REMIT THE BALANCE TO THE HOUSE OF GOODHUE & CO. OF NEW YORK SUBJECT TO MY ORDER.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. EGLESTON & JEWELL
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 29,1854

GENTLEMEN,

I AM IN RECEIPT OF YOUR FAVOUR OF THE 17TH. ULT. RELATIVE TO THE MILL MACHINERY AND MY MILL BUILDING. WITH REGARD TO THE FIRST, ALL I HAVE TO SAY WOULD ONLY BE A REPETITION OF WHAT I HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN TO YOU RESPECTING IT, AND I CAN ONLY ADD HERE, THAT IN VIEW OF THE EXTRAORDINARY DELAY THAT I SHALL SUFFER IN THE RECEPTION OF THAT MACHINERY. I HAVE INSTRUCTED MESSRS. PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN OF NEW YORK, TO USE ALL POSSIBLE DISPATCH IN HAVING THE SAME SHIPPED TO SAN FRANCISCO AS SOON AS MAY BE POSSIBLE. THOSE GENTLEMEN WILL ADHERE STRICTLY AND RIGIDLY, TO THE LETTER OF THEIR CONTRACT WITH YOU, AND THEY ARE NOW INSTRUCTED TO EXACT THE SAME FROM YOU, AND IN CASE OF FAILURE ON YOUR PART TO PERFORM ALL THAT IS STIPULATED IN YOUR CONTRACT, WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TERM OF FOUR MONTHS FROM THE 13TH. OF JULY LAST, THAT THEY SHALL NOT WAIT ONE DAY OVER AND ABOVE THE EXPERATION OF THAT TERM, BUT THEY SHALL CONSIDER THE CONTRACT ANNULLED BY YOUR OWN ACT, AND NOT RECEIVE ANY PORTION OF THE SAID MACHINERY FROM YOU.

YOUR ALTERATION OF THE UPPER STORY OF THE MILL BUILDING WOULD HAVE MET MY APPROBATION HAD I RECEIVED YOUR ADVICE IN TIME, BUT IT IS NOW IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSTRUCT THE ROOF AS YOU DESIRE, FOR THE WHOLE BUILDING IS FINISHED ROOF AND ALL, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE DIAGRAM ALREADY FURNISHED YOU BY ME, OF WHICH PLEASE TAKE NOTE, AND CONFORM THE COSTS THERETO. THE ONLY PART OF THE BUILDING THAT REMAINS UNFINISHED, IS THE LOWER FLOOR, AND THE STONE FLOOR, OR RATHER THAT PORTION OF IT RESERVED FOR THE HOIST.

YOUR OBSERVATION REGARDING THE PACKING APPARATUS & THE LUMBER ARE CORRECT. I EXPECT HOWEVER, THAT BOLTING CHECKS, HOPPERS, SHOES, AND EVERY OTHER ARTICLE OF WOOD EXCEPT THE HOIST, AND ALL TO BE FURNISHED BY YOU PERFECT AND COMPLETE AND READY TO BE PUT UP ON ARRIVAL HERE.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. WADSWORTH & MIESEGAES
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
NOVEMBER 15TH.,1855

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR FAVOUR OF YESTERDAY, ADVISING ME OF THE SHIPMENT OF 649 SACKS OF WHEAT PER SCH. ENSIGN CAME DULY TO HAND AND I TRUST THAT SAID WHEAT WILL HAVE ARRIVED SAFE AND ACCORDING TO SAMPLE. I NOTICE THE AMOUNT YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM BOLTON, BARRON & CO. AND ALSO THE OVER SIGHT WE MADE OF THE 25PER CENT, WHICH YOU HAVE CORRECTED. PLEASE PUSH ON THE SHIPMENT OF THE REMAINDER, AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, AS DOUBTLESS WE SHALL HAVE RAIN AT THE FULL OF THE MOON, WHEN THE ROAD FROM THIS TO ALBISU, WILL BE ALMOST IMPASSABLE.

PRAY HAVE EVERY BAG OF WHEAT SAMPLED, AND MARKED, IN ORDER THAT THERE SHALL BE NO MISTAKE AS TO QUALITY, AND ALSO AS TO ITS IDENTITY AT WAREHOUSE. WITH THANKS FOR LIVERPOOL PAPER, AND YOUR ATTENTION.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX FORBES

MESSRS. PROBST & CO.
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 18TH.,1856

GENTLEMEN,

I AM IN RECEIPT OF YOUR FAVOUR OF THE 23RD. JANUARY, ENCLOSING YOUR BUSINESS CIRCULAR, AND INFORMING ME OF YOUR HAVING A BALANCE TRANSFERRED TO MY CREDIT FROM THE A/CS. OF PROBST & MEINESTZHAGEN, OF $26.17 DOLLARS, THIS FROM BEING DISSOLVED AND SUCCEEDED BY THAT OF YOURSELVES TO WHOM I WISH ALL SUCCESS.

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TROUBLE YOU TO PROCURE AND SEND TO ME BY NEXT STEAMER, IN CHARGE OF WELLS FARGO & CO. EXPRESS, AND DIRECTED TO ME HERE.

FITZROY'S VOYAGES IN ADVENTURE & BEAGLE COMPLETE, FOUR VOYAGES AROUND THE WORLD BY CAPT. MORREL. THE FIRST WORK IS ENGLISH BEING AN ACCOUNT OF A SURVEY COMMENCED IN 1825 BY AUTHORITY OF H.M. GOVT. AND FINISHED IN 1830 OR RATHER TEMPORARILY TERMINATED BY THE DEATH OF THE COMMANDER STOKES. THE SECOND EXPEDITION WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1831, AND FINISHED ITS LABOURS IN 1836, UNDER FITZROY IN THE BEAGLE.

THE VOYAGES OF MORREL WERE PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK 1832. DOUBTLESS YOU WILL FIND THE FIRST REPRINTED, BUT I WOULD PREFER THE ENGLISH EDITION.

MY MILL HAS BEEN RUNNING SINCE 1ST. OF DECEMBER LAST, AND GIVES SATISFACTION, BUT IN COSEQUENCE OF THE HIGH RATES OF WHEAT, AND LOW RATES OF FLOUR, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REALIZE ANY PROFIT AS YET.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. BOLTON, BARRON & CO. SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
TEPIC, MEXICO MARCH 28TH.,1856

GENTLEMEN -

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES WILL SHOW THE AMOUNT OF FLOUR SHIPPED TO YOU FROM MY MILL SINCE THE 26TH. OF DECEMBER LAST, UP TO YESTERDAY.

BY WESTS' LINE - 1595 GR. SACKS SUPERFINE 160WT. SACKS
BY STEAMER SOPHIA - 1280 GR. SACKS SUPERFINE 140WT. SACKS
BEING ALL OF THE BRAND OF MILL

AND 1816 GR. SACKS (SONORA) 112 - 1 SONORA
4691 EQUAL TO 412 EQUAL TO
1172¾
206
1378¾ BARRELS

I SHALL CONTINUE TO SHIP YOU SOME OF THE BALANCE ON HAND AT THE MILL AMONG WHICH THERE IS A QUANTITY OF FINE FLOUR OF GOOD QUALITY. I DO NOT SEND YOU THE REST OF THE WAREHOUSE AS THEY ARE TOO BULKY. IF THE FLOUR SHOULD NOT BE RECEIVED IN GOOD ORDER PLEASE INFORM ME.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOURS SINCERELY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. BOLTON, BARRON & CO.
TEPIC, MEXICO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 29,1856

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR ADVICE OF THE RECEIPT OF FLOUR FOR MY A/C BY STEAMER SOPHIE, AND FOR THE FUTURE SHIPMENTS I SHALL SEND YOU A RECEIPT FROM THE WAREHOUSE. I THINK IT PRUDENT AND SAFE TO HOLD ON TO THE FLOUR FOR A FEW DAYS YET, FOR BY YOUR LETTER AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION, I BELIEVE THE PRICE WILL AUGMENT.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,
YOURS SINCERELY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. BOLTON, BARRON & CO.
TEPIC, MEXICO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 2,1856

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE DULY RECEIVED YOUR FAVOUR OF YESTERDAY, ADVISING ME OF THE QUANTITY OF FLOUR YOU HAVE RECEIVED FOR MY A/C. YOUR A/C IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT FOR THERE IS IN REALITY ONLY A DIFFERENCE OF ONE QUARTER SACK. BY ADDING 80GR. SACKS THAT WERE DELIVERED AT STEAMER WAREHOUSE, ON THE 27TH. MARCH, AND NOT INCLUDED IN MY A/C. OF SHIPMENT UP TO THE 27TH. THE A/C. IS CONFORMABLE TO YOURS WITH THE DIFFERENCE OF THE ONE QUARTER SACK OVER YOUR A/C. THE DIFFERENCE IN HALF SACKS MUST HAVE ORIGINATED IN THE A/C. TAKEN AT THE MILL WHICH I WILL RECTIFY, AND IN REGARD TO YOUR SUGGESTION AS TO THE RECEIPTS TO BE SENT FROM ALBISU, I WILL ALSO SEE TO IT.

I AM MUCH GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT THE PRICE OF FLOUR IS ON THE RISE, AND ATTEMPTS I THINK IT WILL NOT HOLD UP LONG, YET I DESIRE TO TAKE ALL ADVANTAGE PROSSIBLE OF THE UPWARD TENDENCY OF PRICES AND THEREFORE REQUEST OF YOU TO HOLD ON, UNTIL THERE SHALL BE A FAIR SHOW OF WHAT CAN BE OBTAINED FOR MINE AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE STEAMER. I HAVE YET ON HAND ABOUT ONE THOUSAND BARRELS ABOUT ONE HALF OF WHICH IS FINE GOOD. I HAVE ALSO ABOUT ONE HUNDRED BARRELS OF EXTRA WHICH IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL FOR FAMILY USE.

I REMAIN YOURS TRULY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. BOLTON, BARRON & CO.
TEPIC, MEXICO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 14, 1856

GENTLEMEN -

I HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR ESTEEMED FAVOUR, ENCLOSING ESTIMATE OF FLOUR ON HAND IN THIS STATE, BY WHICH THERE APPEARS A LARGE DEFICIENY FOR CONSUMPTION OF CALIFORNIA UP TO THE NEXT HARVEST. IF THE ACCOUNT OF FLOUR ON HAND, AND TO ARRIVE BE CORRECT THERE MAY BE A GREAT AUGMENTATION OF THE PRICE OF THIS ARTICLE WITHIN SIX WEEKS. I WOULD BE MUCH OBLIGED TO YOU, FOR YOUR VIEWS UPON THIS SUBJECT, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE ERROR OF STORING MY FLOUR TOO LONG.

I AM GOING TO TRY AND SEND YOU MORE FLOUR THIS WEEK.

I REMAIN GENTLEMEN,

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

JAS. ALEX. FORBES

P.S. MY SON STILL REMAINS MISERABLE, 5A.M., BUT I THINK HE WILL RECOVER. I AM QUITE USED UP AS OUR FRIENDS SAY IN THE LEGISLATURE.

GUSTAVE TOUCHARD ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JULY 5,1856

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR FAVOUR OF THE 3RD. INST. REQUESTING ME TO REIMBURSE YOU THE SUM OF $4,000.00 LOANED BY YOU TO ME, ON THE 10TH. JANUARY LAST, IN CONSEQUENCE OF HAVING FAILED TO EXECUTE A MORTGAGE TO YOU FOR SECURITY OF SAID SUM AS STIPULATED IN MY RECEIPT TO YOU FOR THE SAME.

IN ANSWER THERETO, I BEG TO SAY, THAT AT THE TIME OF RECEIVING THIS SECOND LOAN FROM YOU, I UNDERSTOOD AND CONSIDERED IT TO BE A PART OF $10,000.00 WHICH I WAS TO RECEIVE FROM YOU (IN THE EVENT OF REQUIRING IT) AT THE SAME TERMS UPON WHICH I RECEIVED THE FIRST LOAN TO BE SECURED BY MORTGAGE, AND THEREFORE I SO STIPULATED IN THE RECEIPT I GAVE YOU FOR THE $4,000.00. IF ON THE VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN WHICH I HAD THE PLEASURE TO CALL ON YOU, TO MAKE PAYMENTS OF THE INTEREST ON BOTH SUMS, YOU HAD SIGNIFIED TO ME YOUR WISH TO HAVE THE MORTGAGE EXECUTED, I SHOULD HAVE DONE IT WITH MUCH PLEASURE. BELIEVING THAT IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT BOTH LOANS SHOULD EXPIRE AT THE SAME PERIOD, I NOW DEEM IT DULY TOWARDS YOU, TO EXECUTE THE STIPULATED MORTGAGE WHICH I HAVE DONE THIS DAY, BEFORE THE COUNTY RECORDER OF THIS COUNTY, AND WHICH TOGETHER WITH MY NOTE AT FIVE MONTHS FOR $4,000.00. I HEREWITH TRANSMIT TO YOU BY WELLS FARGO & CO. EXPRESS FROM THIS PLACE.

PERMIT ME TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE MORTGAGE I NOW SEND YOU IS EQUALLY AS SAFE AS THE FIRST GIVEN TO YOU BY ME FOR THE LOAN OF $30,000.00, FOR THE PROPERTY IS FREE FROM ALL INCUMBRANCES EXCEPT THAT FIRST MORTGAGE.

TRUSTING THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE THIS AND ITS ENCLOSURES SAFELY I REMAIN,

DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

GUSTAVE TOUCHARD ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JULY 8TH.,1856

DEAR SIR,

THE ACCIDENTAL OMISSION OF THE SEAL OF OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER ON THE ACCOMPANYING MORTGAGE, PREVENTED ME FROM SENDING IT TO ON MONDAY MORNING.

HEREWITH PLEASE FIND MY ORDER FOR FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DOLLARS ON BOLTON, BARRON & CO. FOR INTEREST ON $26,000.00 UP TO THE 10TH. INST.

I REMAIN DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

FREDERICK PROBST ESQ.
NEW YORK

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 28TH.,1857

MY DEAR SIR,

YOUR ESTEEMED FAVOUR OF THE 20TH. ULT., IS BEFORE ME, AND AS I PERCEIVE THAT YOU ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT I HAVE DISCONTINUED WRITING TO YOU, FROM DISAGREEABLE CAUSES, I HASTEN TO UNDECEIVE YOU BY ANSWERING YOUR LETTER AND ASSURING YOU THAT NO SUCH CAUSE EVER HAS TAKEN PLACE.

I AM SORRY TO INFORM YOU, THAT I HAVE MET WITH VERY HEAVY LOSES IN CONSEQUENCE OF HAVING GONE TOO DEEP INTO THE SPECULATION OF WHEAT AND FLOUR, LAST YEAR, NOT ONLY FOR GRINDING AT MY MILL, BUT IN FLOUR ALSO AND I HAVE HAD SO MUCH TROUBLE AND DIFFICULTY THAT I HAVE NOT REALLY HAD DESIRE TO WRITE TO ANY PERSON, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT BAD NEWS ARE ALWAYS UNWELCOME. I AM THEREFORE AVERSE TO TROUBLE ANY BODY WITH MY"CONGOJAS"- I HAVE NOW HOPES OF DOING SOMETHING PROFITABLE WITH THE MILL, WHICH RUNS ADMIRABLY, AND MAKES GOOD FLOUR, ALTHOUGH THE MACHINERY IS TOO HEAVY.

I AM GLAD TO LEARN THAT YOU WILL PERHAPS OBTAIN THE BOOK WHICH I REQUESTED YOU TO PROCURE FOR ME, AND ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE OF SECOND HAND, STILL IT WILL BE USEFUL.

I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR PROSPEROUS BUSINESS, AND ALSO IN THE DOMESTIC FELICITY THAT YOU ENJOY AND HOPE THAT BOTH MAY NEVER FAIL YOU.

MY FAMILY IS NOW LARGE BOTH NUMERICALLY AND PHYSICALLY, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO AUGMENTATION OF IT, NOR YET DIMINUTION.

ONE YEAR AGO, MY THIRD SON (NOT MY ELDEST AS YOU WERE INFORMED) FELL FROM A HORSE AT THIS PLACE AND HAD SUCH A SEVERE CONCUSSION OF THE BRAIN THAT HE LAID INSENSIBLE FOR TWELVE DAYS; WHEN HE GRADUALLY RECOVERED HIS MENTAL FACULTIES, AND AFTER THREE MONTHS ILLNESS, HE BEGAN TO WALK ABOUT. HE IS NOW QUITE WELL. I HAD FORTUNATELY REMAINED AT HOME ON THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT, AND AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF HIS FALL, I BLED HIM VERY FREELY, THUS TAKING HIM IN TIME, AND AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE, AND ANXIETY I BROUGHT HIM ABOUT AGAIN AND THANKED GOD WITHOUT THE AID OF <u>DOCTORS</u>.

MEXICO IS TRULY " DESGRACIADO". I QUITE CONCEEDE WITH YOU, AS TO THE RESULT OF THAT BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.

I REMAIN MY DEAR SIR,
YOURS SINCERELY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

HENRY WILKINS ESQ. SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO JUNE 30,1857

DEAR SIR,

YOUR FAVOUR OF THE 27TH. INST. IS RECEIVED, AND SHALL BE ANSWERED AS SOON AS ANY INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED.

I HAVE BEEN ABSENT FOR SOME DAYS, AND HAD NOT THEREFORE, ADDRESSED YOU UPON THE MATTER OF THE MILL PROPERTY, WHICH I FEAR I SHALL BE COMPELLED TO ABANDON TO MR. TOUCHARD, MUCH TO MY REGRET, FOR THE PROSPECT OF DOING ANY THING WITH IT IN THIS DEPLORABLE DRY SEASON IS QUITE HOPELESS.

I BEG TO SUBMIT TO YOU THE PROPOSTION OF RELINQUISHMENT OF MILL & RANCHO TO MR. TOUCHARD, AND HE IS TO REIMBURSE ME THE SURPLUS OF MONEY RECEIVED (OR VALUE OF SAME) BY HIM, OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING FIGURES WILL EXPLAIN -

VALUE OF PROPERTY SOLD HIM	$25,000.00
VALUE OF CASH FROM J. PARR	$ 1,000.00
VALUE OF CASH FROM ME	$ 7,000.00
	$33,000.00
LESS AMOUNT OF HIS PAYMENT	$29,000.00
BALANCE	$ 4,000.00

I HAVE STATED THE SUM OF $29,000.00, SUPPOSING THAT IT WILL COVER THE WHOLE OF THE JUDGEMENT. I PRAY YOUR KIND MEDIATION IN THIS MATTER, AND AN ANSWER AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

I REMAIN DEAR SIR,
YOURS TRULY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

MESSRS. SAUNDERS & HEPBURN

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 10,1857

GENTLEMEN -

I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL WILL SHORTLY ENDEAVOUR TO OBTAIN FROM MR. TOUCHARD FOR INFORMATION UPON HIS TITLE TO CERTAIN ISLANDS IN LOWER CALIFORNIA, A SUM OF MONEY, WHICH MR. TOUCHARD MUST NOT ALLOW HIMSELF TO PAY, NOR PERMIT HIMSELF TO BELIEVE THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL OF THE CHARACTER OF HIM WHO IS ABOUT TO APPROACH MR. TOUCHARD, CAN DO HIM ANY HARM OR ANY BENEFIT. I ADVISE MR. TOUCHARD TO AWAIT AN INTERVIEW WITH ME WHEN I WILL SHEW HIM WHAT STEPS HE OUGHT TO TAKE AND THUS WITHOUT ANY RISK, MOST EFFECTUALY, AND AT A SMALL EXPENSE. I SHALL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GET TO THE CITY IN TWO OR THREE DAYS WHEN I WILL SEE YOU.

YOURS RESPECTFULLY
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

GUSTAVE TOUCHARD ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 23,1857

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO ANSWER YOUR FAVOUR OF YESTERDAY'S DATE, COMMUNICATING TO ME, YOUR PROPOSITION TO CONVEY TO ME THE PROPERTY OF THE RANCHO AND MILL & ETC. OF SANTA ROSA, SITUATED IN THIS COUNTY, AND IN REPLY, THERETO, TO STATE TO YOU, THAT I HEREBY BIND MYSELF TO THE TERMS EXPRESSED IN YOUR PRE-CITED LETTER, BUT I TAKE LEAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT WHEN I LAST HAD THE PLEASURE OF CONVERSING WITH YOU, YOU GENEROUSLY DETERMINED THAT THE FIRST PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE ON THE 31ST. OF DECEMBER,1858.

I AM UNABLE AT THE PRESENT TIME TO PROCEED TO SAN FRANCISCO, BY REASON OF SICKNESS IN MY FAMILY, BUT I SHALL PROBABLY BE SOON ABLE TO DO SO WHEN I WILL BE READY AND HAPPY TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENT YOU MAY DEEM NECESSARY FOR YOUR SATISFACTION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME I CONFIDE ENTIRELY IN YOUR PROMISE FOR MINE, AND WILLINGLY AGREE THAT THE TIME FOR YOUR EXECUTING THE DEED SHALL BE IN THE TERM OF THE TERM OF THE FIRST PAYMENT.

I REMAIN DEAR SIR,
YOUR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

HENRY WILKINS ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
NOVEMBER 10,1858

DEAR SIR,

ON INQUIRING RELATIVE TO THE TAXES ON THE RANCHO OF RINCONADA, I LEARN THAT THE ENTRY OF THE PAYMENT OF THOSE OF 1856 WAS IN ALL PROBABILITY OMITTED BY THE DEPUTY SHERIFF, WHO NEITHER ADMITS NOR DENIES THE PAYMENT OF THE SAME, BUT SAYS THAT MR. TOUCHARD MUST HAVE THE RECEIPT IF THE AMOUNT WAS PAID, AND IF SO, IT WILLBE PROPER FOR THIS GENTLEMEN TO SEND UP THE RECEIPT, AND HE (THE SHERIFF) WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY CORRECTION WITH THE PRESENT OFFICER.

ON MY RETURN HOME, I FOUND THAT A PORTION OF THE RANCHO HAS BEEN SQUATTED UPON ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CREEK, AND ALTHOUGH I HAVE HAD THEM NOTIFIED, THEY REFUSE TO LEAVE ALLEDGING THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN THEIR CLAIMS OUTSIDE OF THE LINES OF THE RANCHO.

THERE IS A PURCHASER FOR A SMALL TRACT OF THE LAND ON THE CREEK ABOVE PARR, SAY ABOUT FIFTY ACRES WHICH I AM WILLING SHOULD BE SOLD IF HE PAYS AT THE SAME RATE AS PARR DID, TAKING ABOUT ONE HALF PARCEL LAND AND THE REST OF HILL OR CHAPARRAL LAND. HE PROBABLY WILL PAY CASH WHICH WILL SERVE TO PAY THE TAXES OF THIS YEAR. PLEASE CONFER WITH MR. TOUCHARD AND INFORM ME OF THE RESULT.

WITH REGARD TO THE CANADA VERDE, I FIND THAT MY SON HAS HAD PROPOSITIONS TO SELL OUT, AND HE HAS SUSPENDED HIS DECISION OR ANSWER, PENDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET MORE LIGHT ON THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AGAINST THE MIRA MONTE CLAIM TO THE EXTENSION OF THEIR LINE, WHICH I PRESUME CAN BE OVERSET BY MR. CONNELLY, I HAVE MADE INQUIRY ABOUT THE PAPERS, BUT AS YET I HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER.

I AM DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

GUSTAVE TOUCHARD ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
NOVEMBER 24,1858

DEAR SIR,

IN REPLY TO YOUR INQUIRIES CONTAINED IN YOUR LETTER OF YESTERDAYS DATE, I BEG TO INFORM YOU, THAT IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF OF THE AGREEMENT MADE BETWEEN YOU AND MYSELF, THE TAXES ON THE RANCHO & MILL, WERE TO BE PAID BY YOURSELF UNTIL THE FIRST PAYMENT DUE ON THE 31 DECEMBER, 1858, SHOULD BE MADE, ADDING THE AMOUNT OF TAXES TO THE FIRST PAYMENT, AND IN THIS BELIEF I INFORMED MR. WILKINS A FEW DAYS SINCE IN SAN JOSE, AND HE HAVING STATED TO ME THAT HE WOULD PAY THE TAXES, I PRESUMED THAT HE HAS DONE SO, DUE TIME FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE TAXES BEING PAST, THEY ARE NOW AUGMENTED 5 PER CENT.

I AM DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

HENRY WILKINS ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 3,1858

DEAR SIR,

SOME DAYS SINCE, MY FATHER, JA. A. FORBES, INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY MR. CONNELY TO COMMUNICATE TO HIM ANY INFORMATION RESPECTING THE RESULT OF A CERTAIN LITIGATION HAD BETWEEN JOSE ANTONIO ALBISU AND CANDE LASCO MIRAMONTES UPON THE LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN THE LANDS OF THE CANADA VERDE AND THE PILARCITOS.

SUCH INFORMATION AS WAS DEEMED OF IMPORTANCE IN THE ABOVE MATTER, WAS GIVEN TO YOU BY MY FATHER, WHO ALSO INFORMED ME, THAT MR. CONNELY INTENDED TO HAVE THE LINES OF MIRAMONTES SETTLED BY THE DISTRICT COURT, AND THAT HE WOULD ALSO BE DESIROUS TO PURCHASE THE TRACT OF CANADA VERDE.

IN THE BELIEF THAT YOU FEEL ANXIOUS TO AID MR. CONNELY IN THE ACQUISTION OF A CLEAR TITLE TO THE CANADA VERDE, I BEG TO INFORM YOU FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF THAT GENTLEMEN, THAT IF HE DESIRES TO PURCHASE I SHALL BE HAPPY TO MAKE HIM PROPOSALS FOR THIS NEGOCIATION. ANY COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO ME AT THIS PLACE WILL RECEIVE DUE ATTENTION.

I REMAIN DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
C.H.F.

HENRY LAURENCEL ESQ.

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 6TH.,1858

MY DEAR SIR,

WHEN I LAST HAD THE PLEASURE OF SEEING YOU, IN SAN JOSE, THE INTERVIEW WAS SO SHORT, AND YOUR ATTENTION OCCUPIED BY OTHER PARTIES, THAT I HAD NO OPPORTUNITY OF CONVERSING WITH YOU UPON A SUBJECT WHICH WE DISCUSSED SLIGHTLY, IN SAN FRANCISCO -TOUCHING THE SALE OF MY HOMESTEAD IN THIS PLACE.

IN THE TURN THAT THE RECENT LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE U.S.CIRCUIT COURT, HAVE TAKEN, THE RESULT OF THE DECISION HAS TENDED TO DRAW UPON ME THE HATE AND ENMITY NOT ONLY OF THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INTERESTED, BUT ALSO OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DRAWN A PROFIT FROM THE MINE, AND THUS I FIND MYSELF IN A VERY DISAGREEABLE POSITION IN THIS COUNTY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, I HAVE SET ON FOOT A NEGOCIATION FOR THE ABOVE NAMED SALE WITHOUT FINDING ANY PURCHASER EXCEPT THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME, WHO HOWEVER CAN DO NOTHING UNTIL THEY CAN RECEIVE ADVICES FROM THEIR SUPERIOR OR PEOPLE AT THE EAST WHENCE THEY EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE MONEY FOR PAYING FOR THE PROPERTY. IN THE MEAN TIME, I HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO OBTAIN A LOAN FOR SIX MONTHS OF TWO THOUSAND DOOLARS, BUT THE CAUSE ABOVE STATED, AND SCARCITY OF MONEY IN AND ABOUT SAN JOSE HAS PREVENTED ME FROM OBTAINING THE MONEY, ALTHOUGH I HAVE OFFERED THE SECURITY OF MY HOMESTEAD BY MORTGAGE EXECUTED BY MY WIFE & MYSELF.

IN VIEW OF THIS DIFFICULTY, I HOPE YOU WILL NOT CONSIDER IT AS TRESPASSING UPON YOUR KINDNESS IF I ASK OF YOU THE FAVOUR TO LOAN TO ME UPON THE SAME SECURITY, THE SUM OF $2,000.00 AT 2% PER MONTH OR IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY DISPOSABLE, I PRAY YOU TO SEEK IT FOR ME AMONG YOUR NUMEROUS FRIENDS IN THE CITY, AND INFORM ME OF THE RESULT AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

I REMAIN MY DEAR SIR,
YOURS SINCERELY,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

GUSTAVE TOCHARD ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 26,1858

DEAR SIR,

I REGRET TO HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT I HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN MY EXPECTATIONS OF BEING PROVIDED WITH FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE FIRST INSTALLMENT ON THE PROPERTY OF THE RANCHO, AND MILL OF SANTA ROSA, OR RINCONADA DE LOS GATOS, DUE ON THE 31ST. OF THE PRESENT MONTH, AS AGREED UPON, AND I AM COMPELLED BY NECESSITY TO RELINQUSIH THE SAID PROPERTY, WHENEVER YOU SHALL DEEM IT PROPER TO DISPOSE OF IT. MEANTIME, ONE OF MY SONS WILL REMAIN IN CHARGE OF THE MILL, AND IF YOU WILL PERMIT HIM TO CULTIVATE ABOUT FIFTY ACRES OF LAND NEAR THE HOMESTEAD OF ONE OF THE FORMER PROPRIETORS, HE WILL PAY A FAIR RENT FOR THE SAME, AND ALSO TAKE CARE OF THE MILL,ETC.

I REMAIN DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

JOHN H. SAUNDERS ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 29,1858

MY DEAR SIR,

IN REPLY TO YOUR ESTEEMED FAVOUR OF THE 28TH. INSTANT, I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT THE ONLY AGREEMENT EXISTING BETWEEN MR. TOUCHARD AND MYSELF RELATIVE TO THE RANCHO AND MILL OF SANTA ROSA OR RINCONADA DE LOS GATOS, IS COMPRISED IN THE LETTER OF THAT GENTLEMEN TO ME, UNDER DATE OF THE 22ND. OF SEPTEMBER,1857, AND ASSENTED TO BY ME IN MY LETTER TO HIM ON THE DAY FOLLOWING, VIZ THE 23RD. OF SEPTEMBER,1857, TO WHICH I BEG TO REFER YOU.

MR. BERREYESA NEVER RECEIVED ANY AGREEMENT WHATEVER, NOR NEVER HAD ANY INTERVENTION WHATEVER, IN THE CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT BETWEEN MR. TOUCHARD AND ME. IT IS TRUE THAT IT WAS DEEMED EXPEDIENT BY ME, THAT IF MR. TOUCHARD SHOULD MAKE A DEED OF THE ABOVE NAMED PROPERTY, IT SHOULD BE MADE OUT IN THE NAME OF SAID BERREYESA; BUT THE DEED NEVER WAS MADE OR EXECUTED BY MR. TOUCHARD, AS I WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE WORD OF MR. TOUCHARD CONTAINED IN THE AFORESAID LETTER FROM HIM TO ME WHEREIN HE AGREED TO MAKE A DEED OF THE SAID PROPERTY ON MY PAYMENT OF THE FIRST INSTALLMENT AGREED UPON, ON THE 31ST. OF THE PRESENT MONTH, BUT WHICH MY MISFORTUNES NOW PREVENT ME FROM EFFECTING. I THEREFORE WROTE TO MR. TOUCHARD, ON THE 26TH. INSTANT STATING THAT FACT TO HIM, AS ALSO MY READINESS TO DELIVER UP THE SAID PROPERTY TO ANY PERSON HE MAY CHOOSE TO DESIGNATE. I NOW HAVE TO STATE TO YOU, AS THE ATTORNEY OF MR. TOUCHARD, THAT I AM READY TO EXECUTE A FULL RELEASE TO HIM, SO SOON AS YOU MAY SEND THE SAME TO ME, AND AT THE SAME TIME YOU CAN TRANSMIT MR. TOUCHARD'S RELEASE TO ME. I WISH YOU TO UNDERSTAND DISTINCTLY, THAT MY OBJECT IS TO AVOID ALL DISAGREEABLE FEELINGS WITH MR. TOUCHARD IN THE MATTER, HOWEVER GREAT MY REGRET MAY BE, IN NOT HAVING IT IN MY POWER TO MAKE THE FIRST STIPULATED PAYMENT UPON THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION.

I REMAIN MY DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

JOHN H. SAUNDERS ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 31,1858

MY DEAR SIR,

I MY LETTER OF THE DATE OF YESTERDAY, IN ANSWER TO YOURS OF THE 28TH. INSTANT, RELATIVE TO THE EXECUTION OF MUTUAL RELEASES BY MR. GUSTAVE TOUCHARD AND MYSELF, AS A FINAL SETTLEMENT OF OUR AGREEMENT IN RELATION TO THE "RANCHO AND MILL OF THE RINCONADA DE LOS GATOS", I INADVERTENTLY OMITTED TO STATE THE CONSIDERATION THAT I THINK MR. TOUCHARD SHOULD IN JUSTICE ACCORD TO ME FOR SAID RELEASE. I BEG THEREFORE, TO APPRIZE YOU, FOR THE INFORMATION OF THAT GENTLEMEN, THAT I WILL BESATISFIED WITH FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS CASH OR IN LAND UPON SAID RANCHO, AT A FAIR VALUATION.

I REMAIN MY DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

JOHN H. SAUNDERS
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 10,1859

MY DEAR SIR,

I BEG TO INFORM YOU FOR THE INFORMATION OF MR. GUSTAVE TOUCHARD, THAT MY SON CHARLES H. FORBES, IS FULLY AUTHORIZED BY ME, TO EXECUTE A RELEASE TO THAT GENTLEMEN FOR ALL CLAIMS I MAY OR CAN HAVE AGAINST HIM IN THE MATTER OF THE RINCONADA DE LOS GATOS & MILL OF SANTA ROSA, AND ALSO TO STIPULATE THE CONSIDERATION OF SAID RELEASE. MY SON WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE RELEASE OF MR. TOUCHARD AND DELIVER THE MILL TO ANY PERSON THAT HE MAY APPOINT FOR THAT PURPOSE.

I AM MY DEAR SIR,
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JAS. ALEX. FORBES

WILLIAM MATTHEWS ESQ. SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE AUGUST 30,1859

DEAR SIR,

ENCLOSED I SEND YOU A SKETCH OF THE LAND, RESPECTING WHICH, I HAD THE PLEASURE CONVERSING WITH YOU YESTERDAY; BUT I HAVE MADE NO MEASUREMENT OF THE DISTANCES ON THE COURSES MARKED, AS THEY WILL OF COURSE REQUIRE TO BE MEASURED AND FIXED BY THE COUNTY SURVEYOR, IN CASE THE PROPOSTION SHOULD BE ACCEPTED. THE LINE MARKED SOUTH 28° EAST, PASSES THE COUNTY ROAD, JUST BEFORE DESCENDING BY SAID ROAD, TO THE FINE TRACT OF BOTTOM LAND WHICH LIES BELOW THE MILL ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CREEK AND EXCLUDES THE SAID BOTTOM LAND FROM THAT TRACT WHICH I HAVE OFFERED TO TAKE, AND OF WHICH, THE SKETCH WILL SHOW THE SITUATION, BUT FOR THE REASON ABOVE EXPRESSED, THE QUANTITY IS NOT CALCULATED. AN EARLY ANSWER WOULD MUCH OBLIGE.

YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

JAS. A. FORBES

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 18,1859

MY DEAR SON,

YOUR LONG SILENCE HAS CAUSED, AND IS STILL CAUSING US ALL MUCH ANXIETY. I KNOW NOT TO WHAT I SHALL ATTRIBUTE THIS GREAT NEGLECT OF A SACRED DUTY ON YOUR PART, TO MANIFEST FILIAL GRATITUDE TO THE AUTHORS OF YOUR BEING TO WHOM UNDER GOD YOU OWE EVERYTHING, EVEN LIFE ITSELF - IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN ANY LETTER TO ME OR TO ANYONE OF THE FAMILY SINCE YOUR LAST RECEIVED LETTER ADVISING ME OF YOUR INTENTION OF TAKING EMPLOYMENT IN THE MAIL LINE, I HAVE NEVER RECEIVED ANY THING. I DESIRE YOU TO WRITE IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF THIS, BY MAIL, AND ALSO BY WELLS & FARGOS EXPRESS ON SAME DATE, ADVISING ME OF THE MAILING OF YOUR LETTER LETTING ME KNOW THE CAUSE OF YOUR LONG SILENCE.

YOUR MOTHER IS MUCH DEJECTED AT YOUR INDIFFERENCE AND IS NOT WELL. THE REST OF THE FAMILY ARE WELL AND ANXIOUS TO HEAR FROM YOU.

I AM YOUR LOVING FATHER,
JAS. A. FORBES

P.S. OBSERVE THE POST MARK IS FROM SAN JOSE.

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 22,1859

MY DEAR SON,

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF THE - OF SEPTEMBER, AS ALSO ANOTHER OF THE 16TH. FOR YOUR MOTHER, WHOSE MIND IS MUCH RELIEVED OF THE ANXIETY WHICH YOUR CARELESSNESS HAS CAUSED NOT ONLY TO HER, BUT TO ME AND YOUR BROTHERS & SISTERS, WHOM THE ABSENCE OF ALL INTELLIGENCE FROM YOU, HAVE VERY NATURALLY FORMED UNFAVOURABLE PRESAGES OF MISFORTUNE TO YOU, AND ALTHOUGH YOUR HEEDLESSNESS MAY NOT SUGGEST TO YOU THE NECESSITY, THE PROPRIETY AND THE OBLIGATION ON YOUR PART, TO KEEP US ADVISED OF YOUR MOVEMENTS, YOUR INTENTIONS, YOUR OCCUPATIONS AND YOUR SUCCESS, OR THE CONTRARY, IN AS MUCH AS YOU UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY THAT SUCH IS YOUR DUTY FOR YOUR OWN SAKE AND FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO ALTHOUGH PLUNGED INTO REVERSES OF TEMPORAL FORTUNE AND BITTER ADVERSITY, STILL REMEMBER A SON AND A BROTHER, WHO APPEARS DETERMINED NOT TO LISTEN TO THE DICTATES OF PATERNAL ADVICE AND OF FRATERNAL AFFECTION, BUT TO CAST AWAY ALL FULFILMENT OF THESE SACRED DUTIES WHICH SO EMINENTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE TEMPORAL HAPPINESS OF HIM WHO DILIGENTLY OBSERVES THEM, AND WHICH I NEED NOT TELL YOU CANNOT FORGET IF YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTIONS AND MORAL LESSONS AND EXAMPLES WHICH YOU HAVE RECEIVED EVEN FROM THE BREAST OF YOUR AND VIRTUOUS MOTHER, FROM THE LIPS OF YOUR EVER INDULGENT FATHER, WHOSE SOLICITUDE FOR YOUR HAPPINESS AND WELFARE HAS ONLY LOOKED FORWARD TO A DUE OBSERVANCE ON YOUR PART OF THOSE OBLIGATIONS WHICH YOUR RELIGION TEACHES YOU OWE TO GOD, TO YOUR PARENTS, AND TO YOURSELF. I DARE SAY THAT IF YOU HAD TAKEN TIME TO ASK YOURSELF A FEW QUESTIONS ON RETIRING TO REST AT NIGHT, A STILL SMALL VOICE WOULD HAVE WHISPERED, REMEMBER THY FATHER AND REMEMBER THY MOTHER AND FORGET NOT THEIR PRECEPTS. TAKE NO STEP TOMORROW, WITHOUT ADVISING THOSE FAITHFUL AND TRUE FRIENDS - THE AUTHORS UNDER GOD OF THY LIFE, THY HEAITH, THY KNOWLEDGE AFTER PERFORMING THIS GREAT DUTY, YOU WOULD HAVE JUSTLY HOPED THAT YOUR PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH GREATER.

I TRUST THAT THOSE OBERVATIONS WILL NOT REMAIN UNHEEDED, AND THAT I SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER CAUSE TO ADVERT TO THIS POINT.

SEPTEMBER 22,1859 PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO HIS SON.

FROM THE TENOR OF YOUR LETTER, I INFER THAT YOU HAVE NOT ANSWERED ANY OF MY LETTERS, AND THIS ACCOUNTS FOR MY INSTRUCTION TO YOU IN MY LAST LETTER DATED 18TH. INST., AND SENT TO YOU VIA OVERLAND MAIL FORM SAN JOSE. IN CONSEQUENCE OF NOT RECEIVING ANY LETTERS FROM YOU OR CHARLES FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, AND FROM CERTAIN OCCURRENCES HERE NOT NECESSARY TO MENTION, I AM PERSUADED THAT ALL MY LETTERS HAVE NOT REACHED YOU OR CHARLES, AND THIS SUSPICION IS NOW CONFIRMED BY WHAT HE WRITES ME. THERE MY INSTRUCTIONS TO BOTH OF YOU, TO BE SURE AND SEND NO MORE LETTERS DIRECTED TO THIS PLACE, BUT ALWAYS TO SAN JOSE WHERE, INSTEAD OF BEING SENT TO SAN FRANCISCO TO RETURN HERE, AND BE SUBJECTED TO THE INSPECTION OF OUR ENEMIES, THEY WILL REMAIN SAFE AND I, KNOWING OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL, CAN SEND IMMEDIATELY ONE OF THE BOYS FOR THEM. OWING TO YOUR LONG SILENCE, I WROTE TWO LETTERS DN. LUIS BAUCHET, ASKING HIM FOR INFORMATION OF YOU AND YOUR BROTHER, AND I ADVISED HIM OF MY WISH THAT HE SOULD ANSWER ME BY ORDINARY MAIL, AND BY EXPRESS, SO THAT IN CASE THE FIRST SHOULD MISCARRY, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE TO THE POST MAILER HERE, THAT A LETTER FOR ME, HAD BEEN MAILED IN LOS ANGELES. WRITE THEREFORE, DIRECTING YOUR LETTERS ALWAYS TO SAN JOSE AND BY THE OVERLAND MAIL UNTIL FURTHER ADVICE, AND BE SURE NOT TO FORGET, AND DIRECT YOUR LETTERS TO THIS PLACE. ENCLOSE YOUR LETTERS IN ONE STRONG ENVELOPE AND GUM IT WELL, ALLOWING IT TO DRY THOUROUGHLY, BEFORE YOU DEPOSIT IT IN THE POST OFFICE. IT WOULD BE WELL FOR YOU TO WRITE TO YOUR BROTHERS & YOUR MOTHER, ON SMALL SHEETS OF NOTE PAPER, WHICH YOU CAN SEAL OR ENCLOSE WITH A DROP OF GUM, DIRECT TO EACH OF THEM, AND ENCLOSE THE WHOLE, IN ONE STRONG LINEN ENVELOPE AS ABOVE, PUTTING ON THE SAME, THE NECESSARY STAMPS.

YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A MAIL AGENT, WILL DOUBTLESS CONVINCE YOU THAT MY VIEW OF THAT EMPLOYMENT WAS CORRECT, AND THAT YOU WERE MISTAKEN AND WILL STILL CONTINUE TO BE MISTAKEN SO LONG AS YOU SHALL ADHERE TO YOUR ESTIMATION OF YOUR SERVICES AT A HIGH RATE OF WAGES, WHICH IN ALL COUNTRIES, AND EVEN IN CALIFORNIA IS ERRONEOUS, BECAUSE YOU NEVER CAN OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AT THE HIGH WAGES YOU EXPECT, BASED UPON YOUR FALLACIOUS VIEW OF THE VALUE OF YOUR SERVICES, WHICH FROM YOUR INEXPERIENCE OF BUSINESS AND YOUR DISTORTED VIEW OF MATTERS OF WAGES &, WHICH ARE NO LONGER ARBITRARY IN CALIFORNIA,(OWING TO THE VAST COMPETITION OF NUMBERLESS PERSONS SOLICITING EMPLOYMENT)

SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ONE STEADY & PERMANENT OBJECT; AND THIS IS, THE ACQUISTION OF A COMPETENT KNOWLEDGE OF SOME BUSINESS OR PROFESSION, THAT WILL IN FUTURE TIME AFFORD YOU AN EASY AND DECENT MAINAINANCE WITHOUT HARD LABOUR. BANNISH THEREFORE, FROM YOUR IMAGINATION DREAMY ILLUSIONS OF MAKING A RAPID FORTUNE WITHOUT HARD WORK, HARD KNOCKS, AND MANY HARD REVERSES AND TROUBLES IN THIS COLD WORLD. BUCKLE ON THE ARMOUR OF FORTITUDE AND PATIENCE IF YOU EVER EXPECT TO DO ANYTHING USEFUL FOR YOURSELF AND SETTLE YOURSELF TO ONE STUDY OF SOMETHING THAT WILL PRODUCE YOU THE ABOVE DESIRABLE MEANS OF DEFYING FUTURE ILL FORTUNE. DEPEND UPON IT. YOU WILL GAIN NOTHING BY WANDERING ABOUT IN IDLENESS.

PIMENTEL IS VERY MUCH OCCUPIED AT PRESENT, BUT I HOPE TO SEND HIM FOR THE MULES IN ALL NEXT WEEK. THEY AND MY SADDLE ARE MUCH WANTED HERE.

YOU MAY EXPECT HIM FROM ONE MOMENT TO ANOTHER TO RECEIVE THOSE ANIMALS, AND RETURN WITH THEM IMMEDIATELY.

DO YOU KNOW OF THE DEATH OF YOUR COUSIN PANCHA SUNOL?

I REMAIN YOUR LOVING FATHER,

J.A.F.

TO CHARLES
MY DEAR SON,

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 22,1859

I HAVE AT LAST, THE PLEASURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A LETTER FROM YOU UNDER DATE OF 13TH. INSTANT, WHICH HAS RELIEVED OUR MINDS OF MUCH ANXIETY. I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED LETTERS FROM ALEXANDER, BY WHICH I LEARN THAT HE HAS RELINQUISHED HIS OVERLAND MAIL EMPLOYMENT, AND THAT HE HAS BEEN ON AN EXPEDITION TO LOWER CALIFORNIA, BUT WITH WHAT SUCCESS HE DOES NOT INFORM ME. IF HE HAD ONLY REFLECTED A MOMENT, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM LOS ANGELES, ON THAT EXPEDITION, HE WOULD HAVE SEEN THE NECESSITY OF WRITING A LINE TO ME TO ADVISE ME OF HIS INTENTION OF GOING THITHER AND THUS WOULD HAVE RELIEVED ME OF MUCH UNEASINESS ON HIS ACCOUNT. I AM SORRY THAT HE IS SO CARELESS & UNSTEADY; BUT SOONER OR LATER HE WILL LEARN BY BITTER EXPERIENCE, THAT SO LONG AS HE DEPARTS FROM MY WHOLESOME PATERNAL ADVICE HE WILL NEVER DO ANY GOOD FOR HIMSELF.

I HAVE FOR SOME TIME PAST SUSPECTED THAT MY LETTERS TO YOU AND YOUR BROTHER, HAVE FALLEN INTO HANDS THAT HAVE NOT ONLY OPENED THEM, BUT PREVENTED THEM FROM EVER REACHING YOU, AND NOW IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF A RECURRENCE OF FURTHER RISK, I SEND YOU MY LETTERS MAILED AT SAN JOSE, AND I NOW CHARGE YOU NOT TO SEND ANYMORE OF YOURS DIRECTED TO THIS PLACE, BUT BE CAREFUL AND DIRECT YOUR LETTERS TO ME AT <u>SAN JOSE</u>, <u>CAL</u>. AND THEY WILL REACH US SAFELY, AS THEY WILL NOT BE SENT THROUGH TO SAN FRANCISCO, TO BE RETURNED HERE THE NEXT DAY, AND FALL IN TO THE HANDS OF ENEMIES. YOU MUST RECOLLECT THAT THE LETTERS SENT BY OVERLAND MAIL TO ANY OTHER PLACE IN THE TRANSIT OTHER THAN SAN JOSE, ALL GO THROUGH TO SAN FRANCISCO, AND ARE THENCE DISTRIBUTED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DESTINATIONS.

IN MY PREVIOUS LETTERS, I GAVE YOU INFORMATION UPON MY AFFAIRS AND ALL OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST TO YOU, UPON YOUR OWN AFFAIRS HERE, AS WELL AS UPON TOPICS OF FAMILY MATTERS INCLUDING THE UNFORTUNATE DEATH OF FRANCISCO SUNOL DE LA PORTA.

I REJOYCE TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR SITUATION WITH MR. STEARNS, AND THAT HE IS SATISFIED WITH YOU & I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE WITH HIM UNTIL YOUR SERVICES SHALL BE INDISPENSABLE TO HIM, WHICH MUST BE THE RESULT OF YOUR EMPLOYMENT WITH HIM, PROVIDED THAT YOU AHERE TO MY ADVICE AND YOUR OWN SENSE OF YOUR OWN INTEREST.

DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO FALL INTO THE ERROR OF BUILDING UP CASTLES IN THE AIR WHICH ARE TO PRODUCE TO YOU SUDDEN WEALTHS. STICK TO YOUR SITUATION AND SUFFER PRIVATIONS (WHICH ARE IN REALITY NO PRIVATIONS) BUT ONLY A LITTLE MORE CONFINEMENT THAN MAY BE AGREEABLE. CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF ASPIRANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN EVERY BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA, AND THAT OF ONCE YOU LOOSE YOUR SITUATION IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PROCURE ANOTHER ONE OF EQUAL ADVANTAGE TO YOU. IN THIS QUARTER, THE BLACK CLOUDS OF ADVERSITY GATHER AROUND US, AND PRESENT NO APPEARANCE OF A FAVOURABLE CHANGE. YET, HOPE THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL STILL CHEERS ME ON, AIDED BY THE LOVE OF THOSE WHO SURROUND ME AND STRENGTHEN THE FRAGILE CHAIN THAT STILL HOLDS ME TO LIFE, WHICH IF NOT FOR THEM. GOD KNOWS WHETHER I WOULD BE ABLE TO BEAR UP AGAINST SUCH TROUBLES, YET FOR THE SAKE OF MY FAMILY, FOR YOU ALL, I SHALL STILL CONTINUE TO MAKE ALL EFFORTS TO EXTRICATE OURSELVES FROM MY DIFFICULTIES. I HOPE AND TRUST THAT YOU WILL SEE THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING IN YOUR SITUATION. DO NOT ABANDON A SURE THING, FOR ANY PRECARIOUS OR UNCERTAIN SPECULATION OR EMPLOYMENT, NOR ALLOW YOUR DESIRE TO COME HERE TO GET THE BETTER OF YOUR SENSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT ALLOWING ANY MOTIVE OF COMPLAINT TO REACH THE EARS OF YOUR EMPLOYER. BE FIRM AND CONSTANT AND YOU WILL SURELY REAP THE REWARD OF YOUR PERSERVERANCE AND HONESTY.

READ OVER MY FORMER LETTERS, PROFIT BY THE ADVICE CONTAINED THEREIN, SEEK A GOOD CONSCIENCE THROUGH YOUR OWN GOOD WORKS AND BE HAPPY. GIVE GOOD ADVICE, AID, AND COUNSEL TO YOUR BROTHER, TRY AND GUIDE HIM TO A STEADY OCCUPATION, BUT I DO NOT WISH YOU TO RELINQUISH YOUR SITUATION, EVEN FOR A FEW DAYS TO BE FILLED BY HIM, AND UPON YOUR RETURN, TO LOOSE IT AND BOTH OF YOU TO BE AGAIN A DRIFT, WITHOUT RESOURCES, AND WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT.

MR. TOMKIN & MARTHA WILL WRITE YOU BY THIS MAIL. I HAVE EVERY REASON TO THANK GOD THAT YOUR SISTER HAS BEEN SO FORTUNATE IN HER MARRIAGE. THEY APPEAR TO BE HAPPY AND I CAN APRISE YOU THAT THE SOLICITOUS ATTENTIONS OF MR. TOMKIN TO YOUR SISTER, HIS MANLY AND GENTLEMANLY DEPORTMENT, ARE BEYOND PRAISE.

THEY ARE STILL HERE, BUT WILL GO TO HIS QUARTERS SOON, WHICH I MUCH REGRET. IN TRUTH, IT WILL BE ANOTHER CAUSE OF SORROW TO ME ALREADY FULL OF TRIBULATION.

I OBSERVE WHAT YOU SAY OF THE BILLS OF SALE OF THE MARES, AND I SHALL AGAIN SEARCH FOR THEM. MICHAEL AND FRED WILL WRITE YOU. WHY DO YOU NOT WRITE TO YOUR BROTHER DIEGO? POOR FELLOW HE IS NOW OUR COOK!! BUT HE CONTINUES HIS STUDIES AND IS VERY INTELLIGENT.

I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU BEGIN TO KNOW AND APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF YOUR LABOUR, & THAT YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF WHAT YOU MAKE OR GAIN. THIS IS A SECRET THAT FEW CAN COMPREHEND. SPEND NOT YOUR MONEY, NOR WASTE YOUR SUBSTANCE AND YOUR BODILY HEALTH IN DISSIPATION. SHUN ALL FIRE SHIPS, OR YOU WILL INEVITABLY BE CONSUMED SOUL AND BODY. SIX HORSES AND $1850.00 DOLLARS IN CASH, MY DEAR SON, IS A GREAT DEAL FOR FIVE MONTHS WORK, AND THAT, NOT WORK WITH THE AXE OR CROWBAR.

I HAVE WROUGHT IN MY TIME A WHOLE YEAR, FOR LESS SUMS THAN THAT. MANY PEOPLE STILL COME TO CALIFORNIA IN THE PERSUASION THAT THEY CAN GET EMPLOYMENT AT ANY KIND OF WORK, AND AT ANY WAGES THEY CHOOSE TO ASK, BUT THOSE PERSONS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS, SOON FIND THAT THE COMPETITION IS AS GREAT HERE, AS IT IS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

MICHAEL HAS THE PALOMINO HORSE HERE IN GOOD ORDER, AND HE HAS TAKEN SEVERAL TRIPS TO SEE THE MARES.

IN ONE OF MY FORMER LETTERS, I WROTE YOU THAT S.S. BARR HAD BEEN NEGOCIATING FOR THE SALE OF THE CANADA VERDE, BUT AS FAR AS I HAVE LEARNED WITHOUT SUCCESS. I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM SINCE MY RETURN FROM THE SOUTH. HE IS STILL STOPPING AT MR. TOMKINS ASSISTING HIM IN HIS BUSINESS, BUT WILL SOON LEAVE TO ASSIST HIS FRIEND MAC COBB AT THE POST OFFICE. I ALSO INFORMED YOU THAT ON MY INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS THAT CONSTITUTED YOUR MUTUAL SETTLEMENT, I FOUND THAT THERE IS NO HOLD ON HIM FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN A RELEASE FROM HIM TO YOU OF RESPONSABILITY ON YOUR PART TO HIM, BUT THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THE ALBISUS WITH YOUR BOOK OF ACCOUNTS.

REGARDING THE STORIES YOU HAVE HEARDOF THE MARRIAGE OF MICHAEL OR OF ANY TROUBLE HE HAS HAD WITH ANY PERSON I KNOW NOTHING. HE SAYS THAT IT IS ALL FALSE, WHICH IS, I SUPPOSE, CORRECT.

SINCE MY RETURN HERE FROM LOS ANGELES, I HAVE ANXIOUSLY ENDEAVOURED TO BRING THE AFFAIR OF THE RANCHO TO A FAVOURABLE SETTLEMENT, BY OBTAINING MR. TOUCHARD A CESSION OF A PORTION OF THE RANCHO IN FAVOUR OF YOUR MOTHER THROUGH A SECOND PARTY, AND HAVE NOT AS YET BEEN ABLE TO EFFECT ANYTHING MORE THAN TO RECEIVE AN OFFER THROUGH THE LAWYER MATTHEWS, FROM TOUCHARD, OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR MY

RELEASE AND THAT OF BERREYESA, FOR ANY CLAIM UPON TOUCHARD. IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTY OF GETTING A SETTLEMENT UPON MORE FAVOURABLE TERMS, I MADE A PROPOSAL TO TOUCHARD BY MATTHEWS TO TAKE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF LAND IN AROUND THE OLD HERNANDEZ HOMESTEAD ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CREEK, INCLUDING OF COURSE ALL THE LAND OF ANY ACCOUNT. I AM STILL WAITING THE FINAL RESPONSE OF TOUCHARD, WHICH I HOPE TO OBTAIN TOMORROW, AND SHOULD HE ACCEPT MY OFFER, I INTEND TO BUILD A HOUSE ON THE LAND AND PUT IN A LARGE VINEYARD AND ORCHARD THERE, AND BY THESE MEANS SECURE A HOMESTEAD AND MAINTAINANCE FOR THE FAMILY. I EXPECT ALSO TO BE ABLE TO PROCURE SOME SHEEP FOR YOUR MOTHER AS A SOLE TRADER. THE HOUSE IN WHICH WE NOW LIVE, I HOPE TO SELL TO MURPHY. MICHAEL WILL PROBABLY TAKE UP A CLAIM ON THE HILLS TOWARDS THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS. I CAN BUILD CAN BUILD WITH MY OWN LABOUR, ASSISTED BY THE BOYS, A GOOD HOUSE SUFFICIENTLY LARGE FOR THE FAMILY, FOR FIVE TO SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS, AND I WILL DO IT AS SOON AS I CAN SECURE THE LAND.

I HAVE BEEN WITH MICHAEL TO LOOK AT OTHER PLACES, BUT I FOUND NONE EQUAL TO THAT PARTICULAR SPOT OF THE RANCHO. THE WATER IS GOOD AS WELL AS THE LAND. THE SITUATION IS GOOD FOR THE FAMILY, BEING NEAR AND POSSESSING ALL ADVANTAGES EXCEPT THAT OF A GOOD VIEW, BUT WE MUST PUT UP WITH ALL INCONVENIENCES AND TURN OURSELVES TO WORK. TOUCHARD IS INPOSSESSION OF THE MILL, IN CHARGE OF MC CARTY AND HE HAS ALSO RENTED LAND TO DE CO AND OTHER FRENCHMEN, WHILE I HAVE MELLAFES & PIMENTEL IN POSSESSION OF THE OLD HOUSE. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SAY IN MY NEXT, THAT I HAVE SUCEEDED IN THE ABOVE TRANSACTION.

I KNOW THAT TOUCHARD DOES NOT FEEL VERY SAFE AS HIS LAWYERS HAVE BEEN TO SOLICIT BERREYESA (DURING MY ABSENCE SOUTH) TO GIVE HIS SIGNATURE TO A FULL RELEASE TO THE FORMER, BUT BERREYESA WOULD NOT SIGN ANYTHING.

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR PIMENTEL TO ARRANGE HIS AFFAIRS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO GO DOWN IN THE STEAMERS FOR THE MULES (OF WHICH I AM SORELY IN NEED) AND RETURN WITH THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BY LAND. HE IS STILL OCCUPIED, BUT HAS PROMISED TO DAY, TO GO DOWN BY THE 1ST. PROXIMO, IN WHICH EVENT YOU WILL SOON SEE HIM.

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT TOMAS SANCHEZ HAS BEEN ELECTED SHERIFF AS I COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD SUCCEED. HE WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE DEMAGOGUES OF HIS PARTY.

1859, SEPTEMBER 22 A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO HIS SON, CHARLES. PAGE 5.

WHEN YOU WRITE AGAIN DIRECT THUS -

J.A. FORBES

POST OFFICE

VIA OVERLAND MAIL SAN JOSE CAL PROCURE SOME OF THE LINEN ENVELOPES, ENCLOSE SMALL NOTES TO YOUR MOTHER & BROTHERS IN THE SAME WITH MINE, GUM WELL THE EDGES & LET ALL DRY WELL BEFORE POSTING.

THERE IS NOTHING NEW OR IMPORTANT HERE. ALL IS DULL AND DREARY. YOUR MOTHER HAS BEEN VERY MUCH GRIEVED AT YOUR LONG SILENCE, BUT IS NOW BETTER. ALL THE REST ARE WELL AND SEND THEIR KIND TO YOU.

I REMAIN YOUR LOVING FATHER,

J.A. FORBES

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 16,1859

MY DEAR SON,

I YESTERDAY RECEIVED YOUR LETTERS WITH ITS ENCLOSURES, ALL OF WHICH CAUSED MUCH JOY TO ALL THE FAMILY, NOT UNMIXED WITH SORROW ON MY PART, TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE UNWELL, AND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SO, FOR A LONG TIME. THIS APPEARS STRANGE TO ME, AS I KNOW THAT THE GENERAL HEALTH AND CONSTITUTION OF ALL MY CHILDREN ARE SOUND, AND FREE FROM ANY CHRONIC OR HEREDITARY COMPLAINT. I AM AFRAID THAT YOU HAVE EXPOSED YOURSELF TO THE RISK OF SOME INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OR THAT YOU ARE IN THE HABIT OF EATING TOO MUCH FAT OR LARD, WHICH MAKES YOU BILIOUS, AND BY EXPOSURE TO THE NIGHT DAMPS, WILL LAY THE FOUNDATION IN YOUR SYSTEM OF MISERY AND PHYSICAL PAIN, THAT WILL DO YOU MUCH INJURY, AND ONLY WITH MUCH CARE AND ATTENTION, WILL DEPRIVE YOU OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLESSING BESTOWED ON US BY THE ALMIGHTY - BODILY HEALTH -

MICHAEL WILL LEAVE SAN FRANCISCO ON THE 20TH OF THIS MONTH BY THE STEAMER SENATOR, AND WILL PROBABLY BE WITH YOU ON THE 22ND. HE GOES DOWN FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING UP THE MULES ACCOMPANIED BY BY YOU, AS YOU WRITE ME THAT YOU DESIRE TO COME UP HERE, AND THAT YOUR BROTHER, ALEXANDER, WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE, UNTIL YOU RETURN.

IN THE FIRST PLACE I WISH YOU TO ARRANGE ALL YOUR ACCOUNTS TO THE ENTIRE SATISFACTION OF DON ABEL AND GET HIS PERMISSION TO LEAVE, TELLING HIM THAT INDISPENSABLE BUSINESS CALLS YOU HERE & TO ALSO GET YOUR BROTHER ESTABLISHED IN YOUR PLACE WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT OF YOUR EMPLOYER. SECONDLY I WISH YOU TO BRING THE FOUR MULES AS I WANT THEM TO PLOUGH AND WORK WITH, AS I AM ENTIRELY ON FOOT. LEAVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER SETTLING ALL YOUR AFFAIRS, AND LOSE NO TIME ON THE ROAD, USING ALL NECESSARY CAUTION WITH THE ANIMALS WHICH WILL GIVE YOU MUCH TROUBLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE, WHICH YOU SAY YOU ARE GOING TO BRING UP.

FOR SAFETY, I THINK YOU HAD BETTER COME BY THE OVERLAND ROUTE AND IT IS QUITE AS NEAR, IF NOT NEARER THAN BY THE COAST ROAD, WHICH ALTHOUGH MORE SETTLED, IS INFESTED BY ROBBERS & ASSASSINS WHO WOULD KEEP YOU IN CONSTANT RISK NIGHT & DAY.

WRITE ME BY THE OVERLAND MAIL, DIRECTING AS USUAL, ADVISING ME OF YOUR DEPARTURE.

I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO EFFECT ANY ARRANGEMENT WITH TOUCHARD - HE HAS REFUSED TO GIVE ME ANY LAND, BUT OFFERS FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO GIVE MUTUAL RELEASES, WHICH I SHALL HAVE TO TAKE, FOR IN LAW I HAVE NO HOLD OF HIM, NOR DEFENSE ON THE GROUND OF

1859,OCTOBER 16 PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO HIS SON.

HOMESTEAD, AS THIS WAS ALLOTTED ME BY THE COURT IN 1856.

MICHAEL WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE NEWS OF THIS PLACE. BARR HAS GONE OFF TO SAN FRANCISCO WHENCE HE LEAVES SOON FOR THE EAST, IF HE HAS NOT LEFT ALREADY.

MY INTENTION IS TO ENDEAVOUR TO GET A PLACE ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE VALLEY, TO PLANT A VINEYARD, AND SOW GRAIN, ETC.

YOUR AFFECTIONATE FATHER

JAS. A. FORBES

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 27,1861

MY DEAR SON,

WE HAVE PASSED A LONG TIME WITHOUT RECEIVING ANY LETTER FROM YOU OR YOUR BROTHER, AND FEEL SOME ANXIETY ON YOUR ACCOUNT -

ONCE MORE I BELIEVE THAT DIVINE PROVIDENCE HAS OPENED TO ME A ROAD TO RECOVER MYSELF AND FAMILY FROM MY ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

I HAVE DISCOVERED A QUICKSILVER VEIN ABOVE THE DAM OF THE MILL, JUST OUTSIDE OF THE LINE OF THE SCHOOL WARRANT UPON A CLAIM OF TWO BROTHERS, SWAIN, VERY INTELLIGENT AND GOOD FELLOWS - I PROSPECT & DEVELOP IT, AFTER WHICH, THEY JOIN ME & BEAR THEIR PART OF EXPENSES. I HAVING 8 SHARES OR ONE THIRD. ALL THE BOYS HAVE COMMENCED WORK WITH ME AND YOU MAY REST ASSURED THAT SO SOON AS I HAVE PROPERLY OPENED THIS NEGOCIATION I SHALL CALL BOTH YOU AND YOUR BROTHER MICHAEL TO ASSIST IN OUR OPERATION. OLD SECUNDERO ROBLES IS NEAR MY LABOUR WITH SOME OTHER GREASERS AT WORK BY PERMISSION OF SWAIN. I HAVE NO MORE TIME TO WRITE, AS I HAVE FIRST COME HOME AFTER A WEEKS ABSENCE. THERE IS OF COURSE MUCH EXCITEMENT ABOUT THIS DISCOVERY, BUT I AM ALL RIGHT.

WITH LOVE OF ALL THE FAMILY TO YOU & MICHAEL, I AM YOUR AFFECTIONATE FATHER,

J.A. FORBES

P.S. DON'T MOVE BEFORE YOU HEAR FROM ME, AND TELL MIGUEL TO DO SO ALSO.

I WISH YOU TO ASCERTAIN <u>PRIVATELY</u> WHAT IS DOING AT THE TIN MINE OF WHICH SO MUCH WAS SAID WHEN I WAS IN LOS ANGELES, AND WHO ARE THE PARTIES NOW IN CHARGE OR WORKING IT, AND ALL THE PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO THE SAME AND ANSWER ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PERHAPS YOU MAY FIND OUT SOMETHING FROM MR. STEARNS.

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 27,1861

DEAR BIRNIE,

ABSENCE FROM HOME HAS PREVENTED ME FROM RECEIVING YOURS OF THE 22. I HAVE DISCOVERED A SMALL VEIN OF QUICKSILVER IN THE SANTA CRUZ RANGE, AND AM PROSPECTING IT WITH MY BOYS AND I HOPE TO FIND SOMETHING WORTH WORKING FOR.

I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT MR. DRAKE IS HERE AND HE WILL CALL UPON ME TOMORROW. I WILL DO ALL I CAN IN THE MATTER FOR YOUR BENEFIT. EXCUSE HASTE AND I REMAIN,

YOURS TRULY,

J.A. FORBES

JAMES H. RAY ESQ.
SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 21,1861

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO ADDRESS YOU AT LAST, ACCORDING TO MY PROMISE, AND TO INFORM YOU, THAT BY THE LAST MAIL, I HAVE RECEIVED A REPLY TO MY INQUIRY REGARDING THE SUBJECT OF THE MINERAL CLAIM UPON WHICH YOU DESIRED INFORMATION. ALTHOUGH THE ANSWER IS NOT VERY EXPLICIT, IT MAY IN SOME MEASURE BE OF SATISFACTION TO YOU. THE PARTIES ENGAGED IN THE EXAMINATION OF SAID MINERAL DEPOSIT APPEARS TO BE DOING NOTHING IN THE WAY OF WORKING OR DEVELOPING IT, AND THE SOLE OSTENSIBLE PARTY CLAIMING THE SAME, IS W.A. STEARNS, IT BEING SITUATED ON LAND CLAIMED BY HIM.

I HAVE BEEN FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS WORKING OR PROSPECTING A PRETTY FAIR SHOW OF QUICKSILVER OUTCROP IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS, BUT OWING TO THE ABUNDANCE OF LIMESTONE AND IRON, I FEAR THAT I SHALL BE DISAPPOINTED IN REACHING ANYTHING OF CONSEQUENCE, BUT SHOULD I BE SO FORTUNATE AS TO STRIKE THE LEAD, I WILL INFORM YOU THEREOF, THAT WE MAY SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH IT.

I REMAIN DEAR SIR,

YOURS RESPECTFULLY,

JAS. A. FORBES

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 15,1862

MY DEAR SON,

ON THE 27TH. OF OCTOBER LAST, I WROTE TO YOU TO INFORM YOU THAT I HAD COMMENCED WORKING AN OUTCROP OF CINNABAR ORE IN THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SOUTH OF THE MILL. SINCE THAT PERIOD I HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY AT WORK WITH YOUR BROTHERS FRED & HAMISH, AND TWO MEXICAN MINERS, RUNNING A TUNNEL UNDER THE MOUNTAIN, WHICH WORK HAS PROGRESSED TO THE DISTANCE OF EIGHTY FEET WITHOUT REACHING ANY ORES.

THE RAINY SEASON COMMENCED ON THE 10TH. OF NOVEMBER, (ON WHICH DAY, WE RAISED CAMP AND WENT INTO A HOUSE THAT I BUILT FOR OUR ACCOMMODATION) AND HAS RAINED WITH VERY LITTLE INTERMISSION UNTIL TODAY BUT AS I NOW WRITE THE SOUTHERN QUARTER IS AGAIN BLACK WITH RAIN CLOUDS THE INUNDATIONS OF ALL THE CREEKS AND RIVULETS HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE DOING IMMENSE DAMAGE THROUGH THE WHOLE COUNTRY. MY WORK HAS ALL BEEN DESTROYED, THE MILL DAM HAS BEEN QUITE SWEPT AWAY, ROADS CUT UP, MEN, HORSES, AND CATTLE DROWNED & GOD ONLY KNOWS WHEN IT WILL END. YESTERDAY I SWAM THE CREEK ABOVE THE DAM AND HAD A TIGHT TIME IN PASSING IT. I HAD BEEN SEVENTEEN DAYS WEATHER BOUND AT OUR SHANTY, WITH HAMISH, WHO IS STILL THERE. FOR THE PRESENT I MUST ABANDON MY WORK AND WAIT MORE FAVOURABLE WEATHER. SO YOU SEE THAT MY FLATTERING HOPES ARE AGAIN DISAPPOINTED.

THE FAMILY ARE ALL WELL, BUT WE FEEL SORRY THAT YOU AND MICHAEL CANNOT WRITE MORE FREQUENTLY AND LET US KNOW HOW YOU ARE. I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN BEFORE NOW, BUT THE HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO REACH THE ORES CAUSED ME TO DEFER FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE EXPECTATION OF BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU AND YOUR BROTHER THE PLEASING TIDINGS OF MY SUCCESS THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE JOINED ME, AND PARTICIPATED IN MY GOOD FORTUNE, BUT SUCH HAPPINESS IS NOT PERMITTED ME AT THE PRESENT TIME. I HOPE YOU BOTH WILL NOT FAIL IN COURAGE TO CARRY YOUR CROSS AND KEEP ADVANCING IN EXPERIENCE AND IN KNOWLEDGE. FORGET NOT MY COUNSELS. BE NOT SILENT SO LONG AGAIN, AND LET ME KNOW YOUR STATE OF HEALTH OR PERSIST IN ANYTHING THAT MAY TEND TO DESTROY YOUR HEALTH OR THE DELIGHTFULL SOLACE OF A TRANQUIL CONSCIENCE. WITH THESE ENJOYMENTS MATERIAL AND MORAL, YOU WILL BE HAPPY. FOR THESE CONFER VALOUR AND STRENGTH OF BODY AND MIND UPON THOSE WHO POSSESS THEM. IN YOUR RECOLLECTIONS OF THE HOME WHERE TRUE & TENDER HEARTS ANXIOUSLY BEAT FOR YOUR WELFARE, THINK OF ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO US, AS NEWS, AND WRITE IT DOWN, SO THAT AT CERTAIN PERIODS OF TIME

1862, JANUARY 15 A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO HIS SON.

YOU MAY HAVE MATTER FOR A LONG LETTER. LET MICHAEL READ THIS AND APPLY ITS SUBJECT TO HIMSELF AND TELL HIM THAT I EXPECTED LONG SINCE THAT HE WOULD HAVE WRITTEN TO ME.

YOUR MOTHER SITS BESIDE ME, AND DESIRES ME TO GIVE YOU BOTH HER MATERNAL LOVE AND BLESSING. SHE ENJOYS GOOD HEALTH, BUT MUCH TROUBLE OF MIND AT YOUR LONG SILENCE, BESIDES THE GRIEF CAUSED BY MY ADVERSE PROSPECTS. RECEIVE ALSO THE AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCES OF YOUR LITTLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND ALSO THOSE OF YOUR LOVING FATHER.

JAS. A. FORBES

MARTIN MURPHY ESQ.

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 22,1862

DEAR SIR,

I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THE LATE TERRIBLE STORMY WEATHER HAS ENTIRELY FLOODED AND BROKEN UP MY TUNNEL AND TURNED THE WHOLE OF MY WORK WHICH AFTER SUCH TROUBLE AND HARD LABOUR I HAD EXPECTED WOULD HAVE PROVED LUCRATIVE.

I SHALL NOW BE COMPELLED TO DEFER ANY FURTHER OPERATIONS IN MINING, UNTIL BETTER WEATHER SHALL FAVOUR ME. MEANTIME I MUST CRAVE YOUR PATIENCE FOR THE PAYMENT OF MY INTEREST ACCOUNT FOR THE MORTGAGE WHICH I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MEET IN A SHORT TIME.....

JAS. A. FORBES

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 5,1862

DEAR BIRNIE,

MY LAST LETTER TO YOU WAS OF THE DATE OF THE 27TH. OCTOBER LAST, RELATIVE TO MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION OF MR. DRAKE, AND ALSO INFORMING YOU THAT I WAS WORKING A SMALL CINNABAR LEAD NEAR THE SUMMIT OF THE SANTA CRUZ GAP.

NOT HAVING HEARD FROM YOU, SINCE THAT DATE, I HAVE NOT WRITTEN, ESPECIALLY AS I HAVE BEEN SO MUCH OCCUPIED AND FROM HOME, AND I NOW REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THE PROSPECT IN THAT MINING OPERATION DOES NOT PRESENT ANY THING FAVOURABLE, FOR AFTER RUNNING IN A TUNNEL UNDER THE OUTCROP, IN THE EXPECTATION OF STRIKING SOMETHING RICH, THE TERRIBLE RAINS AND STORMS SET IN WITH SUCH DREADFUL VIOLENCE THAT ALL MY LABOUR AND EXPENSE IS LOST BY THE FALLING IN OF THE TUNNEL THROUGH ROCKS AND TIMBERING AND COMPLETELY FLOODING THE WHOLE OF IT. HAD I NOT (FORTUNATELY) BUILT A HOUSE ONE SHOULD ALL HAVE BEEN DROWNED OUT. I WAS UPON ONE OCCASION SEVENTEEN DAYS WEATHER BOUND OUT THERE, AND HAD AT LAST TO SWIM THE CREEK, AND WADE THROUGH PLAINS TO GET HERE AND OBTAIN SOMETHING TO EAT.

THUS YOU SEE HOW FORTUNE DEALS WITH ONE NOW A DAYS. I EXPECT TO RESUME WORK AGAIN IN APRIL AND IF I HAVE NO SUCCESS I WANT TO GO TO HUMBOLDT, UTAH TO WORK SILVER MINES OF WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED SOME RICH ORES THAT HAVE YEILDED ABUNDANT SILVER.

IF YOU CAN ACCOMPANY ME THERE LET ME KNOW IN TIME. I AM TOLD THAT THERE ARE RICH PLACER DIGGINGS OF GOLD AT PYRAMID LAKE WHICH IS ABOUT SEVENTY MILES FROM HUMBOLDT SINK OR RIVER. OF THIS I CANNOT BE CERTAIN AS THE FEOGRAPHY OF THAT REGION IS YET IMPERFECTLY KNOWN. AT ALL EVENTS IT REQUIRES 18 DAYS TO REACH HUMBOLDT FROM THIS, ON HORSE.

I SUPPOSE THAT YOUR FRIENDS IN OAKLAND WILL NOT OBJECT TO YOUR LEAVING THEIR LAWSUITS TO THEIR FATE TO GO AND SEEK FOR SOMETHING BETTER. LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD ABOUT THE EXPEDITION THAT WENT TO PYRAMID LAKE.

THE FAMILY ARE ALL WELL AND SEND YOU AND ANNA THEIR RESECTS.

YOURS SINCERELY,
JAS. A. FORBES

P.S. I HAD A LETTER FROM DRAKE INQUIRING ABOUT A SOLAR SOLD BY LSANDRO GALINDO TO BEZAR SIMMONS IN 1857 WHICH IS CLAIMED BY HEIRS OF A GERMAN NAMED DEURNTY WHO YOU MAY RECOLLECT, BUT UNFORTUNATITY I COULD NOT AID THE CAUSE OF THE HEIRS, AS I MUST SUSTAIN THE SALE TO SIMMONS, IT BEING MADE IN MY PRESENCE AND BY MY NEGOCIATION. WRITE ME SOON ANY NEWS.

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
NOVEMBER 25,1864

DEAR MR. BIRNIE,

YOUR LETTER OF THE 20TH. INSTANT CAME DULY TO HAND. YOU KNOW HOW THE EXPEDITION HOW THE EXPEDITION PROJECTED BY POOR CAPT. BROTCHIE AND MYSELF FOR TAKING POSSESSION OF A MAIN ISLAND AND FOR A VISIT TO THE COCOS ISLAND WAS FRUSTRATED BY THE DEATH OF THAT OLD FRIEND.

I BELIEVE I MENTIONED TO YOU ONCE, THAT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE REPORTED DEPOSIT OF THE TREASURE ON THE LATTER NAMED ISLAND WAS COMMUNICATED TO BROTCHIE IN LIVERPOOL BY A FRIEND AND RELATIVE OF HIS (NOW ALSO DECEASED) WHOSE EMPLOY THE OLD MARINER WAS NOW STATED THAT HE WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE CREW OF THE PIRATE VESSEL THAT TOOK THE GALEON NEAR ACAPULCO AND BURIED THE TREASURE ON THE COCOS ISLAND.

THE PARTICULARS OF THE POSITION OF THE SPOT & BEARINGS & ETC. WERE GIVEN TO BROTCHIE BY HIS RELATIVE REQUESTING HIM TO CALL AT THE ISLAND ON HIS VOYAGE AND EXAMINE THE PLACE VERIFYING THE BEARINGS & ETC, AS PRIVATELY AS POSSIBLE AND REPORT TO HIM SAID RELATIVE. IN CONSEQUENCE OF CONTRARY WINDS, CURRENTS AND CALMS, CAPT. BROTCHIE WAS OBLIGED TO PASS FAR TO THE WESTWARD OF THE ISLAND AND PROCEED ON HIS VOYAGE WHICH WAS HIS LAST ONE IN THE COMPANY SERVICE.

WHEN HE CAME TO SAN FRANCISCO WE MET AND I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ASSISTING HIM IN HIS TROUBLES AND LOSSES IN HIS SPECULATION OF THE SPARS FROM VANCOUVERS ISLAND.

IT WAS THEN THAT WE PROJECTED THE EXPEDITION. I PURCHASED THE VESSEL AND FITTED HER INTENDING TO SAIL ON THE RETURN OF BROTCHIE FROM VIELONA, BUT HIS DEATH AND MY OWN LOSSES FRUSTRATED THE ENTERPRISE.

I SEE BY THE PRINTED PAPER YOU SEND ME, MUCH DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE INFORMATION I RECEIVED FROM BROTCHIE AND THAT CONTAINED IN SAID PAPER. THERE WERE NO <u>SWORDS</u> NOR TRIANGLES IN THAT TREASURE. IT WAS COMPOSED WHOLLY OF GOLD AND SILVER IN BARS AND COIN AND SILVER PLATE.

I HAVE NEVER GIVEN UP HOPES OF BEING ABLE SOME DAY TO GO AND EXAMINE THE PLACE AND ASCERTAIN IF THE REPORT OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE TREASURE BE TRUE.

1864, NOVEMBER 25 PAGE 2 OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES TO MR. BERNIE.

I KNOW THAT THERE WILL BE MUCH DIFFICULTY FOR WANT OF FRIENDS TO PURCHASE A PROPER VESSEL WITH STORES, PROVISIONS & ETC. ALSO OWING TO THE INTENSE HEAT OF THE CLIMATE AND TROUBLE TO REMOVE THE VAST AMOUNT OF TROPICAL VEGETATION THAT HAS GROWN OVER THE SPOT WHERE THIS TREASURE IS SAID TO BE BURIED. BUT I WOULD NEVER UNDERTAKE TO GO THERE EXCEPT WITH PERSONS OF MY ENTIRE CONFIDENCE.

I HAVE A SMALL MAP OF THE ISLAND CORRECTLY LAID DOWN SHOWING THE EXACT POSITION OF THE SPOT WHERE THE TREASURE WAS DEPOSITED AND THE SEVERAL BEARINGS TAKEN AS POINTED OUT IN LIVERPOOL BY THE OLD MARINER.

IF IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE MEANS OF PROCEEDING TO THE ISLAND YOU SHALL SURELY PARTICIPATE IN THE FOURTH OF THE SAME PROVIDING YOU ACCOMPANY ME.

FOR THE PRESENT, I DO NOT SEND YOU FURTHER PARTICULARS, AS IT COULD BE OF NO AVAIL TO YOU WITH ITS PARTIES WHO PURPOSE GOING TO THE ISLAND.

I FEEL CONVINCED THAT THEIR INFORMATION IS INCORRECT AS WAS THAT OF ALL THE OTHER EXPEDITIONS SENT THITHER OF WHICH I KNOW OF THREE, THE MOST ABSURD OF THEM WAS THAT IN WHICH A WOMAN CALLED A CLAIRVOYANT WAS TO POINT OUT THE PRECISE SPOT OF THE BURIED TREASURE. ALL FAILED FOR WANT OF THAT MOST IMPORTANT REQUISITE.

IT MIGHT BE WELL FOR YOU TO TRY AND OBTAIN SOME FURTHER INFORMATION OF THE PROBABILITY OF THE SAILING OF THE VESSEL ALLUDE TO IN THE PRINTED PAPER AND WHEN SHE WILL BE DISPATCHED AND ANY FURTHER INFORMATION UPON THE SUBJECT.

I REMAIN YOURS SINCERELY.

JAS. A. FORBES